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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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ANGOLA

TAAG DIRECTOR UNDERLINES CRITICAL NEEDS, PRIORITIES

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 20 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[Text of interview with Lt Col Rui Filomeno de Sa, general director of TAAG, by ANGOP, date and place not supplied]

[Text] Lt Col Rui Filomeno de Sa (Dibala), general director of TAAG [Angolan Airlines], said in an interview with the Angolan news agency that the current status of TAAG flights is very troubling, owing to the loss of two Boeing 737's, which forced the cancellation of a large number of flights.

Describing the situation, Colonel Dibala said that, on 30 January, TAAG carried only 381 passengers on flights from Luanda, an extremely low figure compared to the daily average of 2,000 passengers in 1983.

In 1983, he added, over 1 million passengers were served on domestic and international flights.

In this interview with the Angolan news agency, the colonel also spoke of the acquisition of new planes (a Boeing 767 or Airbus A 310-300 is on the agenda); of the flights cancelled between January and February 1984; and of the arrival of a new Boeing 737 in March 1985, as well as the possible ban on Boeing 707's in Europe starting in 1987, because of noise pollution, a ban which the United States already plans to impose, starting on 1 January 1985.

ANGOP: How is the company making out in terms of operations and transport following the loss of two Boeing 737's?

Director: The company is not doing very well, because we are cancelling a considerable number of flights. TAAG is basically a company of regularly scheduled flights, although we also have (irregular) charter flights. TAAG is also an active member of IATA (International Air Transport Association), and we have an obligation to publish our schedules and meet them to the extent possible. As you know, IATA has two periods, the summerperiod, which begins now, on l April, and the winter period, which starts on l November, and a schedule must be published for each of these periods. With the loss of the two planes, we have not been able to meet the published schedules, and this has not only distressed the company but also countless passengers.

Whereas we once had five planes, we now have only three, and two of these have been grounded, which further complicates operations. It is also no secret to anyone that sometimes we have to give way to priorities, and the biggest priority at this time is defense.

In these periods of major recruitment, we are often obliged to cancel flights to make the planes available to transport the new recruits.

It should be remembered that we once served 2,000 passengers a day on flights out of Luanda; after the loss of the first plane, the figure dropped to 1,500, and more recently, with the loss of the second plane, the figure went even lower. For example, on 30 January we only carried 381 passengers, which means that over half the flights were cancelled.

ANGOP: Will you please tell us about the accidents in November and February, when two Boeing 737's were lost?

Director: Regarding the Lubango accident, we expect the investigating commission to present its findings within this week. It is clear that the Huambo accident was the result of sabotage. The matter is in the hands of security, and some individuals have been arrested. One of the passengers on that flight, Mr Herbert J. Stoker, has written us a letter fom Switzerland, praising the actions of the crew members. We also heard that gentleman on the BBC in London, denying UNITA's allegation that it had shot down a B-737 loaded with Cuban troops.

ANGOP: Now that you are operating with only three Boeing 737's, how many flights has TAAG cancelled to date?

Director: The loss of these two planes has totally changed our operations. I can say that between January and February of this year we cancelled 305 of the 839 scheduled flights, meaning a 37 percent cancellation rate. This was on our domestic flights, because we have not cancelled any international flights.

To give some comparison, in the second half of 1983 TAAG cancelled only 493 of the 2,651 acheduled flights, even though we were somewhat hampered by the loss of the first plane in Lubango. It should be explained that of these 493 cancelled flights, 136 were because the planes were chartered by the Defense Ministry to transport new recruits and another 129 flights were cancelled because of weather conditions. I refer particularly to flights into the cities of Monongue and Huambo, where planes frequently cannot land because of bad weather and because ENANA [National Airport and Air Navigation Operations Company] has still not given the airports the necessary radio-assistance.

Although these cases are not TAAG's fault, they have meant losses which have not yet been calculated, both in the expenditure of fuel on flights leaving and returning without landing at those airports and the inconvenience to the passengers themselves.

ANGOP: What measures is TAAG considering to overcome this difficult situation?

Director: One of the solutions which we are considering at this time is to lease some planes for a year, because we have already signed a purchase contract for a new plane to replace the one lost in Lubango, but the Boeing will not be delivered until March 1985. Until then, we will have to lease some planes to ease the pressure on domestic traffic. A new Boeing 737 costs \$18 million.

ANGOP: Can TAP-Air Portugal help out here?

Director: Yes. In fact, this is one of the possibilities under study, because TAP has some extra planes and could lease them to us at a good price.

ANGOP: Despite all these disruptions of domestic flights, are new innovations being considered?

Director: TAAG has three types of planes: long-range, intermediate-range and short-range.

The long-range planes are the Boeing 707's, which are outdated and which will not be allowed to fly in Europe or the United States because of noise pollution. TAAG has prepared a study which it has already forwarded to party and government officials, and it is now awaiting a final decision as to the type of plane to acquire. We will need a year or 18 months to train the pilots, mechanics, flight assistants and stewards, etc.

The decision must be made quickly, so we will have time to prepare accordingly.

The medium-range fleet consists of the Boeing 737's, which are considered the company's basic planes. They make almost all the domestic connections, so they are a factor for national unity, and they also make regional connections with neighboring countries; namely, Sao Tome, Kinshasa, Maputo, Lusaka and Brazzaville. This fleet will not be modified in the next 10 years.

The short-range fleet consists of Fokkers, which fly only to small fields. Removation of this fleet is not as urgent as that of the long-range fleet.

ANGOP: In your opinion, what type of plane should your company acquire, in light of the new regulation to be adopted by the U.S. and possibly European civil aviation authorities?

Director: Two planes are currently on our agenda. Either plane would be suitable for TAAG operations. They are the Boeing 767 200-ER and the Airbus 310-300.

The two planes are similar; each of them has small advantages but also disadvantages in relation to the other.

The government must decide on the choice as quickly as possible, because we would need a year to train the personnel and order the equipment.

Both of these planes have had demonstration flights here in Luanda. I would like to note that we have also had the British-manufactured BA-46 here, but this is a short-range plane and we are not interested in this area just now, because we are giving priority to the renovation of the long-range fleet.

ANGOP: Even with fewer planes, TAAG also has a shortage of pilots, which must mean resorting to cooperation. What can you tell us about this?

Director: It is true that we still have very few Angolan pilots, so we are obliged to turn to cooperation. Last year we suffered a great loss: we lost seven of our best pilots and two copilots for our international Boeing 707 aircraft, and also a Boeing 737 copilot. Some of them were arrested and others fled the country during the anti-smuggling operation. For a relatively small company like TAAG, 10 crew members is a very large number. Pilot training has been held up because the Lwena Civil Aeronautics School had to close down, since it could not provide the minimum housing and food services.

In this area, unfortunately, we will have to rely on cooperation for some time to come.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS, PRICE CONTROLS VIEWED

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 20 Mar 84 p 9

[Article by J. Miguel]

[Text] The issue of (legal) markets to serve the public, particularly in the nation's capital, is certainly a thorny problem. Here in Luanda, much (even too much) has already been said about the markets, but the problem is still unresolved.

While one searches for answers, the fact is that the shortages persist, so much so that one is not always rational enough to think clearly.

Recently, when some illegal markets were shut down, there were some unexpected reactions. There were those who, despite the difficulties, went along with the idea because, when all is said and done, the illegal markets were dishonestly taking the money of honest workers. There were others who disagreed. They argued (and still argue) that although the illegal markets charged speculative prices, they shopped at them because the legal markets had little or nothing to sell.

Without belaboring the unjust nature of the activity of the parallel markets, we can pose the question: Does the majority of the population have the purchasing power to pay the speculative prices? We think not.

Whether or not the black markets are shut down, however, the distribution problem is still urgent. This situation led us to contact the Marketing Directorate of Luanda Province, in the person of Manuel Martins Figueiredo, its director of community services.

Asked about the dismantling of the parallel markets, Figueiredo noted that "the commission did not participate in the operations conducted by the Interior Ministry to shut down the parallel markets, but if we had been asked, we would have taken part as well.

"We do not want to duck our responsibilities," he added, "because the underground markets do not help to solve the people's problems, but only to enrich some opportunists." "And the interior minister was simply doing his duty to prevent these illegal activities."

Figueiredo said he was sure that shutting down the illegal markets could aggravate the problems with supplies. Even so, he said, it should be understood that not everyone could afford those markets, hence the solution to the supply problems did not lie with the "parallel" markets.

Distribution Problem for Every Government Agency

"The shortage of supplies is not the result of the elimination of the 'parallel markets,'" Manuel Figueiredo said.

"The shortage is because of the real problems of the war and the activity of our foreign and internal enemies," he noted.

He added that some products to supply Luanda come from the Central Plain, which includes the Waku-Kungo Agricultural Complex, on the Luanda-Huambo axis. It is currently difficult to ship the produce by this route because of the puppet activities.

Today the farm produce for the city of Luanda comes from its "green belt" (from Cabiri, for example) and from areas in Bengo Province.

"The quantity of produce from these sources is not sufficient to meet the needs of Luanda's population of over 1 million inhabitants," Figueiredo explained. "Since January of this year, we have received about 150 tons of bananas amd small amounts of vegetables from Bengo Province but, as you can see, this does little or nothing to solve the consumer problem in the city of Luanda."

Another problem is the lack of a transport fleet, particularly transport suitable for products that spoil rapidly. This inadequacy means that it is not always possible to manage prompt shipments of products to the city.

Regarding the problem of controlling the legal market prices, Manuel Figueiredo said the problem is not as simple as it might seem at first glance.

Because they lack their own transportation, the vendors rent privately owned trucks to go and purchase fish or vegetables. The owners of these vehicles charge very high prices, claiming that it is expensive to maintain the vehicles because of the shortage of spare parts and the necessary technical assistance, so they are also forced to resort to speculation. This means that when the vendors reach the markets, they sometimes have to charge higher prices because of the cost of renting the trucks.

This being the case, it becomes very difficult to bring the prices down.

According to Manuel Figueiredo, the whole situation indicates that the solution to the market distribution problem must involve several sectors, i.e., the ministries of Domestic Trade, Transportation, Internal Order and, naturally, the commission, through the Market Directorate. Without the joint efforts of all these sectors, the Market Directorate can do very little, Figueiredo pointed out, because, as he said, the task of the Market Services is to guarantee that the market installatons function, to register the merchandise that comes in and to control the prices. The supply of the products is, strictly speaking, a transport problem, and this implies other agencies, so a joint effort is needed if the markets are to function better.

MALANJE PROVINCE OFFICIAL REPORTS ON DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 21 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The emergency programs and the territorial plan for Malanje Province were at the center of major attention during 1983, despite the great obstacles, representing the gamut of problems in this current phase.

As noted in the report of the Provincial Commission, presented to the 10th session of the Provincial People's Assembly, the program to increase food production in the state sector and with respect to corn, rice and cotton did not produce satisfactory results, owing specifically to the problems with machinery, parts, fuels and lubricants, the shortage of skilled workers and the military situation, among other factors.

Regarding production of poultry and eggs, there was no significant activity, because the responsible central agencies did not supply the chicks. In the cooperative and family sectors, some action was taken to organize the system.

The report noted that the supply of essential consumer products was unsatisfactory, on one hand, because of the poor agricultural-livestock production and, on the other hand, because the competent central agencies failed to receive the goods. Meanwhile, to see that what little existed was distributed more rationally, namely to the workers, a new distribution system was established in the province, through the work centers.

In addition, some measures were taken to normalize the production and distribution of bread in the city and in some municipios and communal villages, through more efficient use of the installed capacity.

It was noted that a negative aspect in the implementation of the supply program was the fact that the interprovince channels for distribution of domestic products, particularly salt, dried fish and soap, have not been normalized.

Regarding production of construction materials, such as lumber, the report noted that the central agencies of the Construction Ministry conducted a survey of the installed capacity and its condition, and drafted an action program. The various tasks included the preliminary steps in the installation of the system for firing bricks at the Deolinda Rodrigues ceramics plant; the equipment is now in the province awaiting installation.

On the other hand, the irregular supply of cement in the province is severely impeding the implementation of some actions provided in the program, particularly the operations of the Sandino factory, which produces prefabricated housing, and the construction of other buildings.

Meanwhile, lumber production did not improve because of the age of some of the equipment, specifically the winches to move the logs, and also the lack of certain imported parts for the sawmills, although the survey of needs for said parts had been forwarded to MECANANG [National Equipment Import Agency], through SOREL [expansion unknown].

LACK OF TRANSPORTATION HAMPERS REPATRIATION EFFORTS

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 21 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] Some 240 citizens anxious to return to their native land, after many years of exile in the Republic of Zaire, are now in Noqui (a province of Zaire), awaiting transportation.

From January to November of last year, 4,364 Angolans returned to this country from the neighboring republic of Zaire, the Angolan news agency ANGOP learned from Gabriel Samuel Norman Luyanzi, provincial delegate of the Secretariat of State for Social Affairs.

Most of these individuals, he added, are natives of Uige, Zaire and Bengo provinces; the rest are from other provinces, such as Benguela, Moxico and Cabinda.

The delegate said that the Kalambate Placement and Relocation Center, 27 kilometers from the city of Mbanza-Kongo, is currently encountering major problems with transportation and food supplies, since the ETP [expansion unknown] and DNACA [National Directorate for Agricultural Cooperativization] cannot meet its needs.

The natives of Zaire Province are sent directly to the provincial office of the Labor Ministry to be assigned to various production sectors; individuals with absolutely no skills are sent to DNACA (agriculture) to work in the fields.

According to the same source, two food centers and a tailor shop have been set up in municipios in Kuimba to assist the peasants and the physically disabled. There is also an infant care center, which serves from 150 to 200 children under 2 years of age.

The provincial office of the secretariat of State for Social Services has ambitious plans to train cadres in infant care and to create other centers in varios municipios.

6362

HUAMBO PROVINCE TO REVIEW PRODUCTION IRREGULARITIES

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 21 Mar 84 p 2

[Article by Simao Roberto]

[Text] Foresightedness should be the decisive factor at various work centers in the province, it was observed during a broad program of visits as part of the process of strengthening discipline and controlling activity at each work center by the officials responsible for their activities.

In this context, Lt Col Joao Ernesto dos Santos (Liberdade), commissioner of Huambo Province, has been paying working visits to economic sectors vital to the life of the province and the country in general.

The primary purpose of this measure is to bring more dynamism to the performance of tasks, requiring each worker to assume his proper role in this phase of national reconstruction, to which the party and government officials attach great importance.

According to a commission spokesman, the visits will make it possible to detect the enormous irregularities that are affecting the production process because certain individuals lack the authority or the leadership capacity to take the proper measures. Among the work centers and production units which the highest province official has visited to date, the TAAG [Angolan Airlines] counters and the Abano Machado Airport, gave him to understand that nothing was proceeding satisfactorily, and this situation must be corrected immediately.

However, the same can no longer be said of the situation observed at Warehouse No 1 of the Secretariat of State for Social Services, where huge quantities of foodstuffs destined for the refugees were in a state of deterioration from having been stored for so long.

Meanwhile, according to directives issued at the site by the provincial commissioner, "new criteria must be adopted for the distribution of agricultural production materials to the municipios, to provide greater support for the displaced population, which is suffering the most from the shortage of production materials."

The program of visits will be continued, as a positive contribution to the elimination of the difficulties that still cripple our companies and production units, and to the socioeconomic development of the province.

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BRIEFS

NEW SHIPS FROM PORTUGAL--Lisbon--The ship "Albano Machado," acquired from Portugal by the People's Republic of Angola, will be launched by the Mondengo shipyards at Figueira do Foz in 4 April, the Angolan news agency ANGOP learned on Wednesday in Lisbon. The Mondengo shipyards, which built the ship, have invited members of the Angolan Embassy in Lisbon and Portuguese political figures to attend the ceremony. The contract for construction of the "Albano Machado" was signed between CABOTANG [Angolan Coastal Shipping Company] and the Mondengo shipyards. The contract provided for construction of two coastal vesels for general cargo, the first of which, the "Cahama," has already been delivered. The two ships cost Angola about \$3.1 million. The "Albano Machado" is 53 meters long and can carry 1,000 tons of general cargo or fuel. After it is launched, the ship will remain at the shipyard for the finishing work and sea trials. It will then be commissioned and turned over to an Angolan crew of at least 12 members. The contract between CABOTANG and the Portuguese ship building firm was signed on 28 July 1982. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 22 Mar 84 p 2] 6362

INFILTRATORS DRIVEN OUT--The Angolan armed forces are successfully driving back the puppet bands wherever they have infiltrated national territory. On 15 March, about 30 kilometers from the city of Huambo, a small band was detected attempting to set itself up in that area. The bandits were driven off, leaving weapons and ammunition behind. The survivors of the band are being pursued until they are all liquidated. According to official sources, in the 10th Military Region our troops fell on a group of Pretoria puppets 30 kilometers from Lovua, inflicting many casualties and capturing 1,400 AK's. This was on 8 March; 6 days earlier, 30 kilometers from Mucona, eight bandits were killed in agroup that was also dispersed. The battle will continue without truce until the racist lackeys are driven back to their refuge beyond Angola's borders. Those who resist will be completely wiped out. Nothing will break the determinaton of the Angolan people. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 22 Mar 84 p 3] 6362

FRENCH AMBASSADOR GIVES ASSESSMENT OF 1983 AID

Ndjamena INFO TCHAD in French 29 Feb 84 pp 4-5

[Text] ATP--The French embassy has made public the balance sheet of French aid to Chad in 1983. The balance sheet reports a very large increase over the previous year. The various French financial interventions in Chad totaled over 12 billion CFA francs last year, almost double the 1982 figure. Although French aid for the restoration of the essential infrastructures and the recovery of the administration was continued an intensified, as well as humanitarian aid and assistance to health, 1983 was above all characterized by important financial aid. The balance sheet published by the French Embassy is divided into seven major categories.

The first category covering aid to reconstruction which involves different projects totaling 1.685 billion CFA francs includes work to repair the first section of the Ndjamena-Abeche highway, restoration of the large administration building which will accommodate 10 ministries, work to put in operating condition the 100-KW transmitters of Radio-Tchad and technical and financial support for the national company, Air Tchad. The category devoted to health and food aid is also important. French aid in this sector, set at 1.255 billion CFA francs, above all permitted the purchase of food and its Aid to the health sector is characterized by the restoration of buildings, assistance to hospitals and to the major diseases services. Substantial aid was given to the third category, development. Totaling 804 million CFA francs, this aid principally permitted support for various agricultural projects in the rural region. Technical assistance, although still very modest, totaled 510 million CFA francs which were used to provide 39 new post offices, training and education hold an important position with the establishment of 375 study scholarships granted to Chadian students; financial and material aid provided to the Ecole Normale Superieure and the Institut Universitaire de Gestion totaled 580.9 million CFA france.

The last two categories on the balance sheet of French aid to Chad deal with financial assistance. Category 6, which is distributed between support to the administration and aid to the operation of the STEE [Chadian Electric Energy Company], involves financial aid of 3.723 billion CFA francs. The portion of this financial assistance reserved for administration principally permitted payment of the state's priority expenditures and the costs of operating the Chadian embassy in Paris. The last category lists loans made

by the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation totaling 3.715 billion CFA francs. These loans involve new industrial investments for SONASUT [Chadian National Sugar Company], reconstruction of the banking system (BTCD), restoration of housing for government officials, water systems for Moundou and Sarh, the import of plow kits for the ONDR (National Office for Rural Development).

French Military aid does not appear on the balance sheet, nor do the important human, material and financial resources mobilized for Operation Manta. Doubtless this is because that exceptional aid fell into a special category owing to a serious situation which caused Chad to call upon France. We Chadians must remember this because it bears witness to France's solidarity and real interest in Chad. Without minimizing the will and efforts displayed by us Chadians under the aegis of the third republic, it is proper to emphasize that French aid was decisive in the process of normalization of public, social and economic life. But since we are demanding when it comes to our best friends, we Chadians continue to think that France can do even better and more.

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CSO: 3419/528

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER HAILS 20 YEARS OF RELATIONS WITH PRC

Brazzaville MWETI in French 23 Feb 84 p 3

[Statement issued by Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Nze]

[Excerpts] Today the People's Republic of the Congo and the People's Republic of China are celebrating their 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations, 20 years of an unfailing and satisfying friendship of fruitful, exemplary cooperation, 20 years of mutual esteem, of an unclouded relationship in which the international rules of co-existence and peace were scrupulously respected.

It was on 22 February 1964 that the Congo and China established diplomatic relations. At the time, this represented a courageous stand and a firm resolve on the part of the Congo, in view of the anti-communist atmosphere prevailing in the world and the ostracism which imperialist powers had shown toward that great country and its magnificent people.

Thus in 1964, the Congolese revolution had its revenge on the anti-communist flunkeys who had been installed in Brazzaville since 1960—the year the essentially neo-colonial independence was granted—and on the so-called Republic of Taiwan, which was only a refuge for reactionaries thrown out by the Chinese people and in the pay of the imperialists. For the revolutionary people of the Congo, there was only one China and the UN's policy on China was anachronistic, contrary not only to the interests of the Chinese people, but also to the interests of people throughout the world.

This stand taken by the Congo was a fair one, and we upheld this position in the United Nations until it won out in 1972, when the People's Republic of China was re-admitted to the UN and the Formosa delegates were evicted from this international institution. We upheld this position despite all the campaigns against the Congo, one of the first African countries to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, despite an hysterical, crude campaign, which never broke the resolve of the Congolese people. Propaganda had it that you could see "a Chinese under every leaf," and that the Congo had become a servant of China.

The establishment of friendly relations between China and the Congo must be regarded as a victory of the Congolese people and the Congolese revolution, a victory of the Chinese people and the Chinese revolution, and a victory of the forces of progress in the world.

We are proud today to celebrate this victory, because in February 1964, we were right and we unfailingly supported this belief. We are also proud because many countries in Africa and elsewhere in the world that opposed our position have finally seen the light. The comfort we draw from this pride induces us to espouse other just causes and to fight for worthy ideas within and outside the Congo. This essentially gives true meaning to our life as revolutionaries. We must have confidence in worthy ideas and have confidence in nations, we must always hope for change and continue fighting for the victory of the revolution and socialism, despite all sorts of difficulties.

Many African countries have since followed the Congo's example. Many countries throughout the world have recognized the justice of the Chinese people's cause. The revolutionary Chinese people, freed of domination from various corners, have since the revolution made even greater contributions to the progress of mankind and to peace and international cooperation.

In 20 years of diplomatic relations, the Congo and China have shared a wealth of experiences. Already in October 1964, the two countries signed a treaty of friendship in Peking.

Since this time, relations have been progressively consolidated by visits of high officials from our country:

in 1973, President Marien-Ngouabi;

in 1978, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso; and

Prime Minister Henri Lopes in 1975.

On the Chinese side, a number of ministerial and technical delegations have come to the Congo, including missions headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gon Da Fei and by Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang.

In addition to the relations between our governments, relations have recently been established between the Chinese Communist Party and the Congolese Labor Party (PCT), which have led to fruitful exchange of delegations between the two Parties.

Our people's organizations, such as the CSC [Congolese Trade Union Confederation], the URFC [Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women], UJSC [Union of Congolese Socialist Youth], ACAP [Congolese Association for Friendship among Peoples], and UNEAC, have received the same attention and have been able to make a number of contacts with the Chinese to see how socialism was built in China, just as delegations from people's organizations in China have been able to visit our country.

In 20 years, the friendship of the Congolese people toward the Chinese people has produced many results:

-- the Djoue short-wave broadcast center for the RTC [Congolese Radio and Television];

- -- the shipyard (Chacona);
- -- the Kinsoundi textile factory (Sotexco);
- -- the Madingou limestone crushing plant;
- -- The Kombe state farm:
- -- the Bouenza hydro-electric dam (Moukoukoulou);
- -- the 31 July Hospital at Owando;
- -- the water pipelines in the town of Owando;
- -- the Makelekele and Talangai hospitals and soon the Palace of Congresses;
- -- the center for extension of farming techniques, in the outskirts of Brazzaville;
- -- the Imboulou hydro-electric dam;
- -- the Loandjili hospital in Kouilou.

Many other projects already approved and signed will be implemented in the coming weeks.

In the area of cultural cooperation, agreements were signed under which 30 to 40 physicians were sent to the Congo for a 2-year renewable term, and Chinese technicians were sent into various sectors of our economy, including transportation and commercial aviation, mining and energy, public works and education.

In the field of trade, China is one of our main partners today.

In short, although we are pleased with the highly positive aspects of our cooperative and friendly relations with the People's Republic of China in economic and socio-cultural fields, we are even more pleased with the totally unbiased and educational aspect of our political relations.

By unbiased, we mean that our friendship with this great country has developed in an atmosphere of mutual respect, without any attempt to dominate, but instead in a spirit of furthering the Congo's independence.

By educational, we mean to stress the exemplary behavior of Chinese officials and workers, who can and do work hand-in-hand with the Congolese, and live in the same modest conditions, and frequently even harsher ones than the Congolese, but do not ask for anything the country cannot afford to provide and know how to make something of the most meager resources. They grow vegetables, raise chickens and pigs and, in short, are very self-reliant. They live in areas where life appears impossible; they do not balk at the problems in Imboulou, where the tse-tse fly is rampant, and are happy with their success without any excessive display of pride.

In these 20 years of warm, friendly relations, we are happy to have had an opportunity to know the Chinese people and experience their exceptional qualities of ingeniousness, patience, generosity and, above all, their determination to overcome any difficulties.

This cooperation has greatly contributed to the education of the Congolese people in Owando, Brazzaville, Moukoukoulou, Chacona, Kombe, the Palace of Congresses and now in Imboulou.

We owe this contribution to building the Congo and educating the Congolese people, which is also a valuable boost for the Congolese revolution, to the Chinese Revolution, the Chinese Communist Party, the socialist revolution and proletarian internationalism.

9805

CSO: 3419/523

PLAN FOR STRAIGHTENING OUT HYDRO-CONGO ADOPTED

Brazzaville BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'ACI in French 20 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] A meeting of Hydro-Congo workers, organized by the Press-Propaganda and Information Commission of the PCT [Congolese Labor Party] was held at Cinema VOG on Saturday morning. This meeting, coming after those of the ONPT [National Postal and Telecommunications Office] and OFNACOM [National Marketing Office], was chaired by Comrade Jean Jacques Nicolas Mvouenze, a member of the PCT's Central Committee and permanent secretary of the Party's Press-Propaganda and Information Commission.

Hydro-Congo, a firm in difficulty, was classified as a pilot enterprise by the National Political Directorate. A recovery plan was adopted for its survival.

Addressing all workers in the hydrocarbon sector, Comrade Jean-Jacques Nicolas Myouenze said that the battle to straighten out the firm concerned and involved everybody: cadres, labor unionists and party members, women and young people.

Recalling the PCT's objectives for this stage of the national democratic and popular revolution, he said: "the recovery and profitability of your enterprise specifically and of all enterprises in our country in general will make it possible to build a coherent and productive state sector, which will create national wealth, be a factor in the development of our country and consequently an instrument in the later edification of liberating socialism."

To solve the human aspects of the problem, Comrade Nicolas Mvouenze asked Hydro-Congo's management, the Party and its people's organizations to fight the ills that are hampering the enterprise's chances for recovery, i.e., laziness, tardiness, lack of discipline, disorder, slovenliness, poor circulation of information, embezzlement of public funds, etc.

"Hydro-Congo's workers must henceforth put collective interests above their own individual interests, because otherwise the enterprise will never be viable," he said in conclusion.

Comrade Maurice Nguesso, president of the Party's Hydro-Congo Committee, reassured the Political Directorate that the workers had made a firm commitment to straighten out the enterprise. "Slovenliness, embezzlement of funds, and carelessness have no place at the current stage of our enterprise's road to recovery," he said.

"The workers and political leaders are determined to pursue the struggle for national liberation of labor, and for democracy and peace," he added.

The labor union, the URFC [Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women] and the UJSC [Union of Congolese Socialist Youth] also showed their resolve to help make the Hydro-Congo recovery plan succeed.

9805

CSO: 3419/523

ACTIVITIES OF PRP'S LAST FIVE YEARS APPRAISED

Djibouti LA NATION in French 8 Mar 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The PRP Five Years Later"]

[Text] "From now on, our struggle can no longer be pursued under the same conditions; the form of combat will be different because the objective to be achieved has changed in nature."

We remember this statement as if it were yesterday. But it goes back 5 years. The day was 4 March 1979, in Dikhil, where the head of state, Hadji Hassan Gouled Aptidon, delivered a speech before all members of government and officials of the people's annexes. On that day, a chapter in our history was concluded. A political past of anticolonialism came to an end and a new chapter was begun. A new form of struggle—that of consolidating our freedom acquired two years before—became necessary. To carry it out, the president of the republic, standing strong with the popular support acquired to lead the country to independence, proclaimed with new support the birth of the People's Rally for Progress (PRP).

The new party, with its new institutions, responded to new realities that had come into being after independence. It was therefore necessary to break with the old political thinking which proved to be inadequate for the new nation, called upon to modernize its political system. And it was in this sense that the head of state, through the creation of the party, proposed to eliminate for all time the clubs or clan associations born of colonial times. He gave the country an institution channeling a certain will and a means for citizens to act together toward a single, common goal.

Since then, the new party has held as its objective "to cement" national unity; to ensure the security and integrity of the national territory within a single party; in short, the building of a nation on new foundations; to consolidate that which had been acquired and to develop immediately such areas of first priority as the economy, national education, health; to bring about the rebirth of authenticity of culture and tradition which had been "buried" by that imposed under colonialism; and finally, to design the nation's diplomacy wisely.

On 4 March of this year, the country celebrated the PRP's fifth anniversary. How does it look at the end of 5 years of existence? Generally, the party has seen new primary and secondary shoods; the nation's health, relatively

satisfactory, continues to be one of the party's primary concerns. As for the resurrection of our culture, the party's cultural commission is worthy of much esteem. The cultural forums of 1982 and 1983 speak for themselves. Furthermore, the Republic of Djibouti excelled culturally at the Festival of Pan-African Youth that took place last year in Tripoli (in Libya).

At the end of 5 years, the results are, if we may say so, satisfactory. However, a close examination of the party's health shows it to be suffering from a certain malaise that gives it a sickly look. It might be explained by resistance to change, even doctrinal paralysis, which keeps the machinery that was so well oiled in Dikhil from running. Popular activism with regard to the party seems to be crumbling and the people's annexes empty.

It is enough to believe that the euphoria and momentum at the grass roots level are being broken; the fervor evaporating—at first sight, this would explain the malaise of the party which is also in financial straits. Because it is true that dues from all party members, beginning with officials at a certain level, are lacking. The party's secretary general urgently reminded the latter to fulfill their duty as activists at the last meeting of the central committee at Arta in December.

Is it not a very bad example for the rank and file, for recent members, that is being set by those whom the chairman of the party has entrusted to carry out the PRP's leading principles? Is it not very obviously one of the major problems afflicting the party? And what is causing this popular resistance to change which has struck the PRP?

The head of state has deplored the situation on many occasions. Several months ago, the president decided to draw an endowment of 30 million Djibouti francs from the national budget for the party to function. Will this decision to grant the party financial vitality and means enable it to make great strides in accomplishing its weighty tasks? To cut back even further? The opposite will have to be proven.

12413

CSO: 3419/522

AHMED DINI REFUSES TO TESTIFY IN AWALEH CASE

Djibouti LA NATION in French 8 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] Concerning Mr Aden Robleh's libel suit against LA LETTRE DE L'OCEAN INDIEN: Mr Ahmed Dini makes a statement.

In last week's edition of LA NATION, we published a letter by Mr Aden Robleh Awaleh (former minister of commerce, transport and tourism) denying the writings of the newspaper LA LETTRE DE L'OCEAN INDIEN questioning his integrity while still holding the office of minister.

Mr Aden Robleh asserted in his statement that in the libel suit against said newspaper, "Mr Ahmed Dini is a witness for the newspaper".

His statement provoked a reaction from Mr Ahmed Dini, who sent us the following letter.

Having been implicated by name in the columns of your newspaper by Mr Aden Robleh and taking recourse to my right to respond, I would be grateful to you for publishing my statement in its entirety in the same space and using the same print.

In Djibouti, in the month of August, 1981, I met for the first and last time Mr Botbol, the present director of the newspaper LA LETTRE DE L'OCEAN INDIEN, when he was organizing the publication of its first issue.

In the course of our meeting, I, along with other friends, gave him documents for publication concerning the PPD party [Djibouti People Party] which we had just founded. Without any further contact between him and me in direct meeting or through correspondence, he called me 2 years later, in December 1983, informing me that he had named me as a witness in a libel suit brought against him by Mr Aden Robleh over an article that questioned the latter's integrity in managing the national company Air-Djibouti.

Because, for my part, I have neither sought to determine whether the public

rumor on the subject was well founded nor attempted to discover the true causes of the events that occurred at Air-Djibouti, which are, (in chronological order):

- -- Financial difficulties
- -- Beginnings of a threat to strike
- --Minister's resignation
- --Formation of an offical auditing committee and its investigation
- -- Suspension of the director general
- -- Nomination of a new director

I cannot testify against anyone. Moreover, the commission that carried out an audit did not make public the results of its investigation.

Under these circumstances, I replied to the director of LA LETTRE DE L'OCEAN INDIEN that in order to testify at a trial, a witness must know the exact truth, which cannot be said of me, and that I could therefore not take the witness stand.

Consequently, I am compelled to deny in the most categorical manner Mr Aden Robleh's statement that "Mr Ahmed Dini is a witness" for the newspaper LA LETTRE DE L'OCEAN INDIEN.

However, I wish to make it clear that my refusal to testify in this case corresponds to a moral obligation with respect to the ethical code applicable to a witness as prescribed by the Koran, explained in the Hadith, codified in the Shari'a and in custom.

There is nothing improper in the way in which I was named as a witness by the newspaper LA LETTRE DE L'OCEAN INDIEN, since objective and forthright testimony is never the result of consultation, dealings or prior agreement between a potential witness and the person naming him as such.

Finally, I conclude by adding that my political activities have never had a sordid side of seeking out or exploiting other's secrets. I do not know that which I should not know and I speak as little as possible about that which I do not know, even in politics.

Signed, Ahmed Dini

12431

CSO: 3419/522

REGIME THREATENED BY ARMED FORCES' DISCONTENT

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 12 Mar 84 p 15

[Article by Anders Johansson]

[Text] Vladimir Lenin, or rather a statue of the Soviet revolutionary hero, is the current joke in Addis Ababa. The new statue is centrally placed on Menelik Avenue, the widest boulevard in Ethiopia's capital, right between the congress complex Africa Hall and Haile Selassie's former royal palace.

"Don't you see that Lenin faces towards Bole Airport, the international airport?" the Ethiopians joke. "Hopefully he is on the way out of Ethiopia, together with all other Russians."

Revolution

The Lenin statue is one of the many preparations for the 10-year celebration of the Ethiopian revolution later this year. Feverish building is going on in Addis Ababa, among other things, an even larger congressional palace is being erected—in one of Africa's poorest countries—and the American chain Hilton is expanding its luxury hotel in order to be able to receive all the expected guests of honor.

The joke--and wishful thinking--about Lenin's imminent departure reflects on how little liked the Russian "comrades" are among the common people of Ethiopia, in contrast to the Cuban brothers-in-arms loaned by Fidel Castro.

But the aim of the military powers-that-be is to reinforce Lenin's position in Ethiopia. The 10-year remembrance of the dethronement of Emperor Haile Selassie will be celebrated by the creation of Marxist-Leninist party--"Ethiopia Workers' Party"--and the publication of a 10-year economic plan, all in the pattern of the Eastern European state. This requires investigations, committees and reports and so much time and energy on the part of many decision-makers that the normal work of government and administration is partially paralyzed.

On 12 September 1974 the aged Haile Selassie was overthrown and removed from the royal palace, the feudal constitution abolished and the parliament, dominated by the Ethiopian aristocrats, was dissolved. Today, a decade later, it is not difficult to hear bitter complaints as to how the revolution was brought about—and betrayed—by the incumbent junta of Col Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Leaflets hostile to the government have been distributed openly at intersections and work places in Addis Ababa; and when Ethiopians are convinced that the stranger is not Russian, they do not hide their criticism of "the new emperor," as Colonel Mengistu is sometimes called.

Colonel Mengistu's problem is largely the same as Emperor Haile Selassie's: to hold together a huge country of 1.2 million square kilometers—larger than the Nordic countries—with about 40 million people of different nationalities.

The security position of the military junta has obviously deteriorated in the last half year, and in Addis Ababa diplomatic observers readily speculate as to whether Colonel Mengistu will "be able to have his 10-year celebration or not." Some kind of test of strength is expected before the jubileum in September.

Eritrea

The chronical problem of Eritrea, with which the military regime is dealing in the same way as the emperor did, that is, trying out a military solution, is not any closer to resolution. The EPLF guerillas [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] have pushed forward their positions, and the separatist movements have now combined their efforts on the advice of the conservative Arab states such as Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

In the adjoining area Tigre another liberation front (TPLF) [Tigre People's Liberation Front] controls 80 to 90 percent of both the area and population and has recently expanded armed resistance to the border regions Wollo and Gondar.

EPLF in Eritrea and TPLF in Tigre have a tactical alliance but different long-range goals. The Eritreans are striving for independence from Ethiopia, while the Tigreans oppose the dominant position of the Amhara tribes at the center of power in Addis Ababa, both previously and now. TPLF says that it desires "a voluntary union ... on the basis of a democratic constitution" of the different Ethiopian peoples.

A new resistance movement, "Ethiopian People's Democratic Alliance" (EPDA) also regards the military regime as a continuation of the imperial regime. Its program is primarily "social democratic" and it recognizes Ethiopia's multi-national character. The divisions must be eliminated by means of "democratic decisions and just, lasting and peaceful solutions," it proclaims.

Show Trial

The military junta's fear of the EPDA is confirmed by a show trial of 18 allegedly "counterrevolutionary elements," whose leading trio is an 80-year-old army veteran, a prominent businessman and the daughter of a former "feudal landowner." They are accused, among other things, of having distributed leaflets hostile to the regime.

EPDA has sympathizers among the Ethiopians who are in exile in the United States. Recently four American diplomats were expelled from Addis Ababa after being accused of organizing a spy ring. One of the diplomats was unmasked when he handed over propaganda material to EPDA, according to unanimous rumours.

The powers-that-be in Addis Ababa are obviously nervous over the increasing resistance in more and more regions around the capital. The activity of the rebel groups is beginning to take the shape of regular civil war.

But the resistance movement is by no means closely united. Its smallest common denominator is the desire for a revolution against Colonel Mengistu's junta but it does not really have a common alternative to the present order. The rebels do not yet constitute a military threat to the regime.

Bully.

Perhaps the greatest threat to the military rule is found within its own armed forces. There is dissatisfaction, among other things, against the Soviets' support with weapons—insufficient to crush the rebels—and against the bully tactics of the Russian advisers.

The fact that the Russians very seldom associate with ordinary Ethiopians, in contrast with the Cubans who readily mix with people in bars and stores, contributes also to the bad reputation of the Russians among the common people. Nor do the Soviets hesitate to send military advisers to the front in Eritrea, while Cuba sends neither soldiers nor civilian advisers there, so as to avoid being accused of involvement in the sensitive conflicts in that disputed territory.

The regime is perhaps digging its own grave by the decision of instituting general military service. The social control of the powers-that-be by village councils in the rural areas and block societies in the cities make it difficult for young men and women to go underground. The alternative to military service under protest is to join the guerillas or to go into exile in Sudan or Somalia.

Contradictory reports are circulating that Castro has called home the greater part of his 10,000 soldiers in Ethiopia, where they came in 1977 and helped to defeat the Somalian invasion of Ogaden. A Cuban troop retreat has possibly been confused with normal regrouping or momentary reinforcement of Castro's forces with the hard-pressed MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government in Angola.

The Cuban soldiers are no cheap brothers-in-arms, either in Ethiopia or in Angola -- they must be paid in hard currency. But even if Colonel Mengistu would like to ease the economic burden, he would surely become more popular if he instead sent home the Russians, including the Lenin statue on Addis Ababa's parade avenue.

6893

CSO: 3650/147

GUERRILLA WAR PREVENTING FOOD AID FROM REACHING POPULATION

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 19 Mar 84 p 17

[Article by DN:s correspondent Anders Jhhansson: "Ethiopian Famine: Guerilla War Prevents Help"]

[Text] Addis Ababa in March--The famine in drought-stricken Ethiopia is less catastrophic than a year ago. But on account of hostilities in Eritrea and Tigre, about two-thirds of the people--a couple of million--cannot be reached by relief shipments.

The increased tension between Ethiopia and Sudan has also caused new refugees to cross their common border in both directions.

Remaining on the retina are eye-witness pictures from last March of tens of thousands of Ethiopians, mostly women and children, who were crowded together in windy, makeshift refugee camps in the highlands of Wollo and Gondar. Women waited, sometimes for days, by deep, newly dug holes in dried-out flood-beds for the clay-brown but lifegiving water to arrive.

The Ethiopians remember too well the catastrophic famine of 1972-73, when 200,000 people starved to death, since the then existing empire closed its eyes to the need and refused to allow entry to foreign relief agencies.

One evening in September of 1974, the provisional military junta showed a British TV documentary "The Forgotten Hunger" with cuts of the Emperor Haile Selassie feeding his favorite dog bits of meat from a silver platter, while his subjects were dying. The TV-movie helped to undermine the Emperor's throne. Haile Selassie, himself, was forced to view "The Foregotten Hunger." The following day, the "King of Kings' was finally removed from the throne, without opposition and protests.

The military regime in Addis Ababa has given high priority to the victims of the drought. A special commission for help and rehabilitation (RRC) has a good reputation among most of the foreign relief agencies, but lately it has been criticized more and more for diminished efficiency and increased corruption. Since it has grown too large, it has become a "state within the state."

RRC is appealing for continued food relief and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, FAO, estimates the current need for imports to 400,000 metric tons. But relief experts in Addis Ababa say that the problem in Ethiopia right now is not lack of food. The last crop in the most productive areas was good and better, overall, than the authorities anticipated.

The most acute problem right now is how to buy, transport and distribute the surplus crops to the drought areas. The real bottlenecks, as far as the surplus reaching the needy is concerned, are lack of money for domestic purchase and lack of transportation.

But the basic, and in the long run still more serious problem, is the hostilities mainly in Eritrea and Tigre, but lately also in Wollo and Gondar. In that area there is still severe drought, which really has not let up since 1972. RRC's own statistics admit that close to two million needy people are out of reach of food assistance in northern Ethiopia.

Cease Fire

The resistance movement in Eritrea and Tigre has suggested a cease fire to facilitate relief shipments to those starving in the areas controlled by the guerillas. The port at Massawa, for instance, could be used, but it is now used mainly for shipments of Soviet weapons to the Ethiopian armed forces, declares the opposition.

The port of Assab, further south by the Red Sea, is almost exclusively used for various goods, among them building materials, that the military regime needs for the preparations for its tenth anniversary in September.

Sidamo, in southern Ethiopia is a new crisis area, there has been no drought there previously. One hundred eighty-five thousand persons are affected and cattle are dying daily, according to relief agencies in Addis Ababa.

The guerilla forces in Eritrea and Tigre, as well as the opposition groups in western Ethiopia, are obviously receiving support from Sudan. Many refugees have sought their way there during the last couple of months, in addition to the, roughly, 400,000 who are already there. Women and children try to escape the hostilities and the drought, while young men go into exile to avoid the draft, recently initiated by the regime in Addis Ababa.

At the same time, however, about 25,000 people have escaped from southern Sudan into Ethiopia. This can be connected to the fact that rebels in southern Sudan have stepped up their armed struggle against the Arab-dominated central government in Khartoum in the last six months and they have received international attention by, among other things, kidnapping foreigners who work on oil exploration or building of canals.

Expanded hostilities in northern Ethiopia and southern Sudan have been followed by an intensified propaganda war between the military regimes in Addis Ababa and Khartoum. The guerrilla group in souther Sudan had bases and supply lines on Ethiopian territory before the Emperor, Haile Selassie, in

helped to mediate in the conflict in southern Sudan, that now is flaring up again. Most likely, the Ethiopians have again allowed guerrilla bases—the only difference between then and now being, that Libya has taken over the role played by Israel before 1972, as far as military advice, supplies of weapons, etc, to the rebels in southern Sudan are concerned.

Footnote: An earlier article on Ethiopia was printed on 12 March.

12339

CSO: 3650/155

PLANS FOR POSSIBLE INCREASE IN PAPER PRODUCTION

Antananarivo MADAGASCAR MATIN in French 3 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Madagascar Paper could increase this year's paper production to 12,000 tons, as compared with 10,000 tons in 1983, thus putting an end to the recent traumatic paper shortage in the capital, according to a PAPMAD [Madagascar Paper] official.

That official has indicated that in addition to paper earmarked for newsprint, there is a demand from other PAPMAD clients for paper products for industrial, school and domestic use. We can confirm that at present we have 1,900 tons of imported paper pulp at Tamatave.

Therefore we are thinking of manufacturing 1,200 tons per month of all types of paper for a period of a little over 5 months, he added.

National requirements for 1 year are about 16,000 tons of paper, said the official, according to the total general import quota envisaged by the revolutionary government which has been granted us for this year. We expect to be able to import 2,600 additional tons of paper pulp. The sum granted under the quota will also be used to purchase spare parts and other primary or additional materials needed for paper manufacturing, he continued.

With regard to paper pulp, then, if everything goes well, PAPMAD expects to be able to use 4,500 tons this year, which will permit the factory to produce 12,000 tons of paper, again of all types. The PAPMAD official indicated that in 1983 total production was 10,000 tons. There could be an improvement in paper production this year in comparison with that of last year. (ANTA).

8735

CSO: 3419/521

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION URGED; DEFORESTATION DESCRIBED

Antananarivo MADAGASCAR MATIN in French 3 Mar 84 p 2

[Excerpts] At a time when there is much talk about endogenous or self-development and such, when there is an attempt to establish the foundations for industrialization and agricultural production is being urged to the bitter end, the only forest areas we have left are on the eastern fringe (in the east and northeast), which represents less than 20 percent of our total area. The country is therefore somewhat deforested throughout, in spite of "little islands" of forests, which are also rather badly distributed, being found here and there but always subject of the practice of "tavy," or clear-cutting.

Clear-cutting, which is, according to one of the officials, Mr.

Randrianarijaona, service chief in the Directorate for Waters and Forests, the practice of clearing a forest first with axes, of letting it dry for a certain period and then finally burning it..." is synonymous with squandering natural resources, if one includes only the destruction of "timber wealth,"—the destruction of woods of all qualities, from second or third rate to valuable woods such as ebony or rosewood. On the economic level, considering the price of a cubic meter of rosewood, for example, on the international market (between 300 and 500 FMG), and that it takes this tree more than a century to attain an exploitable size, only to be destroyed in a few hours just for firewood or by a criminal's axe, one has a right to question, particularly if one knows that the peasant who clears the forest only gets about 500 kg per hectare, which is rather ridiculous in comparison with irrigated rice cultivation, and even more so since he can only attain that productivity during the first year, because the soil during this period is rich in organic matter.

Beginning with the second year, however, production falls almost immediately because of the acidity of the soil due to the constant humidity.

Clear-cutting, then, is the primary cause of deforestation, but there are also forest fires, originating sometimes with the "tavy" fires themselves, which the peasants have not succeeded in mastering (but sometimes, surely, from acts of vandalism and accidents).

But the consequences of deforestation do not stop, unfortunately, with this destruction of timber wealth. There are further consequences which are more serious and affect other sectors of the economy, because after the primary

forest has disappeared, the "savoka," or thickets, appear. The wood from these thickets has no economic value other than as domestic firewood, but the thicket itself quickly disappears with the return of the "tavy," or clear-cutting process, which this time will leave only "bozaka," or scrub growth in its place. However, we know that the brush forest will not spare the "bozaka," either. The result of this ongoing process is the beginning of the deterioration of the soil.

Frantic efforts at production, and popularization of improved seed, the utilization of complex fertilizers and the adaptation of modern methods of cultivation are praiseworthy, essential and indispensable, but will they be sufficient to render fertile a run-down and porous soil which, because of a cover which has become precarious, can no longer protect itself from the weather (wind, rain, etc).

8735

DETAILS ON OIL AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT REVEALED

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 27 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] Following the government decision to increase the import quota for such products from 25 to 50 percent for the period from April 1984 to March 1985, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) tankers will bring 90,000 tons of petroleum products to Mauritius.

The decision to increase our imports of petroleum products from Kuwait from 43,000 to 90,000 tons was made following talks that Minister of Energy M. Utchanah and Minister of Commerce K. Bhatat had last week with H. Al Saffa, KPC marketing director for the East African region and S. Al Nadii, KPC manager for the same region.

An agreement had been signed between the Mauritian government and the KPC in October 1982 for the importation of 25 percent of our petroleum product requirements from Kuwait [stipulating] that the State Trading Corporation (STC) was to be responsible for importing these products. With last week's new accord between the government and the KPC, 16,000 tons of gasoline, 28,000 tons of fuel oil, 10,000 tons of kerosene and 36,000 tons of heavy oil will be imported from Kuwait for the period from Arpil 1984 to March 1985.

It was also decided that these petroleum products will be carried by the KPC tankers in five 18,000 ton shiploads, that is two shiploads of heavy oil and three shiploads of the rest.

The KPC and the STC will meet in mid March to finalize a price formula for 1984/1985. The new prices could be the same or better than currently existing prices for the importation of petroleum products from Kuwait.

The government obtained assurances that the KPC will be able to compete with the prices offered by competitors.

The ministers of Commerce and Energy met with the petroleum product import companies to inform them of the government decision to increase the quota from 25 to 50 percent. The companies agreed to cooperate with the government in importing these products.

In 1983 Mauritius imported approximately 32,000 tons of gasoline, 56,000 tons of fuel oil, 20,000 tons of herosene and 72,000 tons of heavy oil. The value of these imported petroleum products for local requirements is reported to be 620 million [Mauritian] rupees.

The importation of petroleum products from Kuwait has allowed the STC to realize a net profit of approximately 6 million rupees based on a calculation of the difference between the prices offered by the KPC and those of the multinational companies, respectively.

9969

REDUCTION IN UNEMPLOYMENT REPORTED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 20 Feb 84 p 1, 4

[Excerpts] Last year for the first time the Ministry of Employment recorded a reduction of the number of persons signing up at the various job placement offices. In fact, the number of jobless went from 75,129 in December 1982 to 70,732 in December 1983, or a drop of 5.85 percent. In 1982 the Employment Ministry registration had indicated a 15 percent increase in unemployment.

According to the latest bulletin published by the Office of Employment, the majority of jobless are in rural regions. Based on the registration center figures, the distribution is as follows: Port Louis, 8639, Pose Hill, 12,148; Curepipe, 8,622; Mapou, 14,674; Ouartier Militaire, 13,927; Rose Belle, 12,722. Compared to October 1983 there has been a reduction of 2,259 employment applications, which the authorities attribute to the opening of new plants and to job offers in firms in the free zone. The Mauritian Employers Federation [MEF] believes that the reduction in the unemployment registration in 1983 is also due to the fact that those involved, faced with the difficulty of finding employment, have started to become self-employed.

Unemployment was at its highest level in August 1982 when the number of jobless reached 79,333.

Government circles are delighted that the job situation has stabilized in 1983. While employment in large firms dropped by 2115 between September 1982 and September 1983, the number of layoff announcements received by the Ministry of Labor and Industrial Relations has also dropped. Between January and October 1983, 82 employers notified the ministry of their intention to lay off 1818 employees. The 1982 figures were 83 and 3,980 respectively.

In addition, the October 1983 economic bulletin indicates that the number of jobless secondary and university graduates went from 1411 in July 1982 to 914 in June 1983, a reduction due to the ease of getting a job abroad. The authorities have estimated that in September 1983 there were 1024 graduates seeking employment and that 440 graduates were underemployed. Explaining the problem of unemployment among graduates, the MFF declares in its annual

report: "The big difficulty with an overwhelming proportion of those 'graduates' is the fact that they hold useless qualifications, which do not correspond at all to employment opportunities which may be available. The only solution for them would be to forget about their qualifications and try to create a small enterprise where they would be self-employed."

9969

FAO PUBLISHES REPORT ON ECONOMIC ZONE

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 9 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] An FAO report pertaining to the evaluation, control and surveillance of the exclusive economic zone of the island of Mauritius is currently the subject of profound study by the Ministry of Agriculture. This report was drafted by Peter J. Derham, consultant, and Laurence Christy, of the FAO legal staff, who visited Mauritius from 4 to 11 December last.

Stressing the problems inherent in surveillance, the authors of the report expressed the view that it is very difficult to draft a system for the physical surveillance of foreign vessels because of the vastness of the Mauritian zone, which covers 1.6 million square miles, and which is adjacent to other maritime boundaries.

The authors of the report also expressed the view that physical surveillance is almost impossible given the present financial situation, since the fees demanded of ships are very low. On the other hand, they propose other solutions including, among others, control of vessels flying this or that flag, and regional cooperation in the surveillance sector, a system which has proven successful in other regions of the world.

The report proposes solutions with three aspects: first of all, the issuance of licenses to foreign vessels within the framework of a bilateral agreement, stressing the responsibility where the flag state is concerned. Next, the report urges cooperation with other riparian nations within the context of exchanges of information as well as standardization of conditions with a view to developing the fishing industry. The last aspect of the solutions proposed deals with the use of physical means making it possible to carry out spot checks when the reports received are not regarded as serious.

Within the framework of protection of these zones, the FAO is organizing a workshop to be held in the Seychelles from 21 to 26 March, during which control measures and the issuance of licenses to vessels will be discussed. The sessions will deal with the technical aspects, and it is possible that a plan of action will be drafted.

5157

MMM WOMEN'S COMMISSION ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 8 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] Beginning at noon on Saturday, the MMM will hold a celebration in honor of International Women's Day at the festival hall in the square. The party's Women's Commission, responsible for the organization of the celebration, presented the program which was finalized yesterday to the press. Mmes Vidula Nababsing and Shirin Aumeeruddy Cziffra, who were accompanied by Mmes Arianne Navarre-Maire, Jocelyne Minerve and Villa Seenyen, took the same occasion to emphasize the activities of the MMM to promote the social and legal equality of the sexes. In this connection, they announced that the Women's Commission of the MMM has established new structures to encourage such activities further.

Mrs Nababsingh said that "the MMM has since its establishment favored the extension of the rights and the role of women in society." A women's commission was established in order to encourage more sustained participation by women in the work undertaken with a view to social change in the life of women, she added.

"The MMM has already given consistency and ideological support to this action," Mrs Nababsingh went on to say, "but it must be admitted that the MMM, like all the other political parties in Mauritius, has structures which do not allow active participation by women." In this connection, Mrs Nababsingh added that in many cases women find it impossible to participate in the activities of various party bodies because of the practical problems having to do with the scheduled time of meetings, etc. "The importance of political action in the battle for emancipation and greater social freedom cannot be ignored, and this lea to the concept of creating a context which would encourage this action to a greater extent," she added.

Mrs Nababsingh explained, however, that the MMM in no way seeks "segregation in the political struggle." Rather the party wants to achieve the better integration of women in the party structures. She recalled that women have played a considerable role in the struggle against repression and inequality, which struggle was undertaken by the MMM at the time of its creation.

The next speaker, Mrs Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, emphasized that even at the most difficult moments in the battle for social justice, women have been in the vanguard of current events.

She stated that the battle has led to continuing but partial emancipation. "Women today have the same basic right to respect, but inequalities continue to exist on the legal and social levels." She said that after the MMM-PSM government came to power in 1982, the initial impetus needed to bring about social changes in the lives of women was provided, but "it was not possible to complete the work."

Mrs Aumeeruddy-Cziffra also commented on certain contemporary problems affecting women, in particular the controversy about abortion, equal wages for equal work, and the continuing rise in prices for basic goods.

On the subject of abortion, which was brought to the fore again with a recent article carried in the press, Mrs Aumeeruddy-Cziffra explained that the MMM has not changed its attitude toward this problem, meaning that the members may have what this speaker called "differing positions" on such an issue, but that it is necessary a priori to launch a national debate before reaching any decision in this regard. The speaker recalled that when she was minister of justice, she launched an effort toward this end.

Mrs Aumeeruddy-Cziffra also said that the recent government decision to reject an NRB recommendation for a wage increase for women working in the sugar industry represents a "retreat" in the struggle for equality in income for the workers of both sexes.

Let us note that the celebration on Saturday will include an exhibition illustrating the women's struggle, as well as dances and songs, among other activities.

5157

BRIEFS

PUBLIC ORDER ACT--The Public Order Act (POA), a repressive law passed in 1973, will not even be amended, to say nothing of being replaced. That is what the Jugnauth regime decided last week. "This legislation could be very useful in the current circumstances," it is being said in government circles. For that reason, the decision was made not to amend the POA. This decision confirms the fascist tendancy of the regime in office. addition, it has been suggested that the diabolic tandem is no stranger to this decision. It should be noted that union headquarters have just denounced the fact that the new Industrial Relations Act (IRA) being prepared will be much more repressive and antidemocratic. By deciding to not amend the POA, even though the new IPA would be much more repressive, it is clear that the Jugnauth regime wishes to impose repression. All of that must be added to the intimidations perpetrated among public employees and in the use of the NII [National Intelligence Unit]. Almost all of the former members of the Special Branch and of the State Security Service (SSS) have been called upon to join the NIU of the past regime. In the same breath several officers named after the June 1982 elections have been transfered to regular service. [Text] [Port Louis LE NOUVEAU MILITANT in French 22 Feb 84 p 1] 9969

SWEDISH AID AGENCY, BUSINESSES IN PROJECT TO REVIVE INDUSTRY

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 7 Mar 84 p 8

[Article by Kerstin Kall: "Swedish Firms Help Mozambique's Industry"]

[Text] Swedish firms will help Mozambique with know-how that can get a part of the old industry of the colonial period going again. SIDA [Swedish International Development Authority] has granted 55 million kronor for the project, and the transfer of know-how is to be done through a new system of "sister companies."

The Secretary of State of the Mozambican Department of Industry Inocencio Matavel has been traveling around in Sweden for nearly 2 weeks together with Jose Goncalves, executive vice president of the agricorporation Agro Alfa, looking for firms producing the same things as the firms they want to invest in their own country.

The consulting firm Swedind is helping with the submitting of requests. "We have picked out such industries as are indispensably necessary and have a strategic position in the economy," says Dr Matavel. We are also picking out industries that can have a multiplier effect. Thus if we settle on farm equipment, that will also stimulate agriculture and help us to supply ourselves.

The first "sister companies" in Sweden will probably be Overum's Plant and Biva International in Blomstermala.

Negotiations are under way with Biva about help with know-how concerning all types of internal combustion motor repairs. At present, motors that get out of order must be sent from Mozambique to South Africa for repairs. That takes at least 3 weeks, and no replacement motors are to be found.

Inocencio Matavel has already written a preliminary contract with Overtum's Plant, which must be ratified by the government in Mozambique before it becomes effective.

It provides that for 5 years Overum's Plant will help to get production of farm equipment under way in Agro Alfa--everything from hoes to tractors.

To begin with, 5 or 6 men from the Agro Alfa management will come to Overum and be trained in management questions, purchasing methods, factory organization, etc. At a later stage production workers will come.

At the same time experts will go from Overum to Mozambique--eight persons in all plus, various experts as needed. If for example, it is desired to organize a purchasing section at Agro Alfa, someone from Overum's purchasing section will go over.

"We see this as a way of expanding a little," says Lars Goran Fasth, executive vice president at Overum. It could possibly be a beginning on learning about new markets.

"We know that the expansion on the agricultural side has not much further to go in Europe. In Mozambique we must go back a little in history, from the highly mechanized life we are mostly concerned with.

"At the same time that we are selling know-how we are gaining knowledge of more traditional agricultural markets and getting an understanding of their special problems."

Among other firms, Matavel and Goncalves have visited Forss-Parator, which makes flatcars and sleeping cars, Huskvarna Motocyklar in Odenshog, Malte Mansson AB, which is engaged in motor repairs, Saab-Scania in Nykvarn and Laxo-Mekan.

"We encountered a great interest in the project," says Dr Matavel. "What we noticed is that Swedish companies are very unfamiliar with this type of selling of know-how. It is therefore a good thing we actively participate in the planning of the transfer of knowledge."

What Mozambique is now trying to do is to preserve the industrial structure of the colonial period and make it work again. At the time of independence, 20,000 Portuguese left the country, and they ran the factories and had the know-how.

"Industry is not standing still today," says Carl-Gustav Svensson of Swedind, "but it is only operating at 20-30 percent of its capacity."

But getting industry in operation again requires also for what Dr Matsvel calls the "banditry" supported by South Africa to stop.

"We have gotten into a situation where the nation's existence is at stake," he says. "On 16 March the presidents of the two countries are to meet."

8815

CSO: 3650/137

LITERACY CAMPAIGN EFFORTS UNDER STUDY

In Montepuez

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 22 Feb 84 p 16

[Text] This year, the district of Montepuez, in the province of Cabo Delgado, an intensive campaign to erradicate illiteracy in the region will begin.

This initiative, the first of its kind in the entire country, will run for a period of three years, with the goal of ensuring that every person in the district will know how to read by the end of that time.

According to news released by Radio Mozambique, the process will involve central, provincial, and district officials of Adult Literacy and Education, as well as volunteer monitors and youth, who have already expressed their support for this project.

In Nampula

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 28 Feb 84 p 16

[Text] The governor of Nampula, Feliciano Gundana, in his capacity as president of the provincial committee of adult literacy and education, met with members of that body.

The meeting was called to analyze the fulfillment of the goals set by the governor at the last meeting and to outline actions for upcoming campaigns.

Because it was shown that worker participation in the Adult Literacy and Education campaigns did not achieve the desired results, Feliciano Gundana recommended that all companies finish enlisting all those who are not registered in the process.

The objective of this action is to elaborate a plan for the erradication of illiteracy in economic sectors.

Deputies in the People's Assembly and party members will participate in the process.

12353

CSO: 3442/309

SOFALA PROVINCE REORGANIZES LOCAL PARTY STRUCTURE

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 8 Mar 84 p 8

[Text] On Tuesday, the final day of meetings, the first session of the Sofala Provincial Committee approved the election of the new 5-member Secretariat and 13-member expanded secretariat. Major General Marcelino dos Santos, leader of Sofala province, is the current provincial first secretary of the party.

According to the final communique read at the close of the provincial committee session, the provincial committee's expanded secretariat was elected because of Sofala's need for permanent supervision of the control and execution of its tasks.

The 13-member group will function primarily in the intervals between the two sessions of the party's provincial committee.

The final communique further states that the expanded secretariat of the Sofala provincial committee may, at appropriate times, call on any member of the provincial committee to participate in its proceedings.

The provincial committee session, which closed on Tuesday, approved a program for the reorganization of the party structure in Sofala and the province's plan for this year's activities. In addition, it decided to empower the provincial assembly, whose session began yesterday, to plan the execution of the political-administrative organization proposal for the city of Beira.

In a political analysis of the Sofala situation, the first session of the provincial committee concluded that, thanks to the participation and positive activity of the political groups in all areas, and the population's mobilization in the fight against hunger and the armed bandits, "the political situation in Sofala" can now be considered "favorable".

At the meeting, nevertheless, the committee recommended the urgent need to permanently reactivate the rendering of accounts in all party echelons in a manner that will maintain strict control over and constant awareness of the province's situation. Another issue which deserved special attention was the fight against the armed bandits, with the committee emphasizing the need to organize a People's Militia Command involving all those who have or will have the political-military preparation for self defense.

Be a Party Member in One's Own Cell

"The members of the party's provincial committee in Sofala must be, in the first place, party members of the cells in their company of the neighborhoods where they reside. We will be strict and demanding in the rendering of these accounts," said party first secretary Marcelino dos Santos, when giving the closing speech.

Marcelino dos Santos made this affirmation when referring to the importance which the cell assumes in incorporating the population and the workers into the reorganization of party structure.

"The Workers' mobilization for production and the incorporation of democratic mass organizations depends on the cell. Because of this, special importance should be given to these basic structures," said Major General Marcelino dos Santos.

At the end of the meeting, Major General Marcelino dos Santos was given the sum of more than 500,000 contos, the fruit of contributions from workers and inhabitants of Sofala for the victims of tropical storm "Domoina" in Maputo, the strengthening of defense capability, the Special Conference of the Organization of Mozambican Women, and the reconstruction of Maringue.

12353

cso: 3442/309

ITALY TO FINANCE SEVERAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 5 Mar 84 p 5

[Article by Ousseynou Sow]

[Text] Italy is planning on financing several Senegalese projects in as diverse areas as water power, agriculture, electricity, road and railway infrastructure and mining.

This is what has come out of the meeting of the Fourth Joint Italian-Senegalese Commission which was held last 21-23 February in Rome to discuss the multi-annual program to be completed in 1985.

The prospects for our country look excellent.

The fourth session of the Joint Italian-Senegalese Commission is over. Meeting in Rome from 21 to 23 February 1984, it provided an opportunity for the delegation from the two countries to examine the multi-annual cooperation program which was approved in Dakar in June 1982 and which will terminate in 1985.

The hydraulics subsector was one of the main subjects discussed. The Italians were impressed by Senegal's efforts to harness water power and are going to participate in the emergency hydraulic plan in the Sine-Saloum region and in more localized programs, such as supplying water to the villages of Mpal, Fass, Rao and Sakal, and to the Saloum Islands. Italy will also finance a study on storing runoff water and a project to install wind pumps in rural areas.

In the related agricltural subsector, the Italians are going to help equip the Sindian cooperative (supplying tractors and technical assistance) and participate in projects for processing and growing cashew nuts and for the hydroagricultural development of the Anambe Basin (for livestock) in Casamance. Moreover, a project to produce canned food for the ITTA [Food Technology Institute] is scheduled to be implemented before the end of 1984.

In the industry and energy sector, the two countries evaluated the joint activities carried out by the Italian power company, ENEL [National Agency for Electricity and Energy] and SENELEC [National Energy Development Company]. ENEL is preparing an invitation to bid on a project to extend SENELEC's distribution network, and is completing the final report in connection with

the study on the testing and measure laboratory for that company. The Italians have also taken a great interest in the MIFERSO [Eastern Senegalese Iran Mining Company] program and have agreed to finance half of the detailed preliminary studies and the construction of the railway line between Maleme-Hoddar and Tambacounda (193 km). They also gave their general stamp of approval to the projects submitted in the field of renewable sources of energy, including an evaluation of solar and wind power along the Niayes coast and sun-drying of fish.

The Senegalese and Italian participants also exchanged views on ways to develop projects in the priority fishing sector, for which funds of \$60 million have been earmarked. A large part of this amount could be allocated to integrated industrial projects.

As for trade matters, the two delegations stressed the need for Senegal to diversify its exports on the Italian market. Besides the traditional products such as ground-nuts and its byproducts, phosphates, fish, cotton and hides and skins, there is also a potential for phosphated fertilizers, phosphoric acid, handicrafts, honey, beeswax, etc. The two countries also agreed to increase contracts between foreign trade promotion agencies and promotional activities (e.g., fairs and exhibitions and trade missions of economic agents).

Turning to the social sector finally, 1.2 billion has been earmarked for health under the multi-annual program. To this are added the ten ambulances which were officially presented to the Senegalese leaders by Guilio Andreotti, Italian foreign affairs minister, during his visit to Dakar last January. In the same sector, Italy will finance the rural television project and set up farm units in the Diourbel and Thies region. It also intends to participate in a pilot farm for the Inter-Governmental School of Veterinary Science and Medicine and in a biogas production unit, and to finance the project to improve Saint-Louis.

The primary concern of both delegations was to improve the standard-of-living of the rural population. Mario Raffaelli, under secretary of state for foreign affairs and head of the Italian delegation, presented to Senegalese Minister of Planning and Cooperation Cheikh Hamidou Kane a document entitled "Integral Rural Development Project in Casamance," which was drafted by Italian experts and will be examined in detail by the Senegalese technical services.

9805

LD/MPT TO HOLD FIRST REGULAR CONGRESS IN APRIL

Dakar FAGARU in French No 10, Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Babacar Sane]

[Text] On 7 and 8 April 1984, the First Regular Party Congress, convened by the Central Committee at its 13th session, will meet in Dakar. Nobody can say that this will be a congress like any other congress of any other party. For us, working class militants, communist militants, for workers, for peasants, for revolutionary intellectuals, it goes without saying that this first congress is an event of great importance. This is true first because of the context in which it is taking place, and second because of the party's stage of development and the new prospects for the future of the Senegalese revolution.

The current crisis of the world capitalist system has deeply affected economically dependant countries such as Senegal, harnessed to the yoke of imperialism. Our people have suffered to the limits of their tolerance. In the cities and in the countrywide, the purchasing power of the people has been reduced to practically nothing. Unemployment, disease, ignorance, and malnutrition grow worse every day. And, the authorities and their party, the PS [Socialist Party], have lost all their credibility in the eyes of the people. The need for a change is more and more urgent. The leaders themselves have been forced to change their tune to reflect the situation.

Thus they have been using a number of turns of speech, such as promoting democracy, appealing to the forces of change, turning over a new leaf, etc...for the purposes of staging a recovery. In other words, all the weapons borrowed from Marxism by bourgeois reformists have been used to launch a political, theoretical and ideological offensive. For nearly 10 years, our party and its democratic forces have worked and struggled, sometimes long and hard, to push the regime to reverse its policies and make concessions. Ten years may not seem like very much in the life of an organization. But there are times when 10 years are worth more than a hundred. Thus, once the congress has examined in depth our strengths and weaknesses and has adopted the proposed agenda, it must decide what it is going to do in light of the changes which have occurred. The LD/MPT [Democratic League--Movement for the Labor Party] is now in the process of becoming a party of the future. It has developed qualitatively and quantitatively. However, as great as its contributions to leading the people's struggle have been, the fact is that its actions have not

been enough to counter the imperialist-allied, neocolonial forces. We therefore need to strengthen our unified policy horizontally, with the other Marxist parties, and vertically, with the entire patriotic movement.

This first LD/MPT congress should therefore present an opportunity for us to evaluate our organizational experience so that we may gain a better idea of how we can increase our forces and influence, and extend our activities and operations on the national political scene. This congress will be responsible for forging the theoretical and practical weapons that will enable us to go to the people and organize, lead, educate, unite and guide them and the entire democratic and patriotic movement in our country, to promote a democratic alternative and a final, complete break with neoco'onialism, and to ensure the victory of the democratic and national revolution, a step towards socialism. The congress should thus provide a new starting point for a general, multi-faceted offensive against imperialist domination and the neocolonial state of the UPS/PS [Senegalese Progressive Union/Socialist Party]. To do this, the LD/MPT will have to be more successful than in the past in organizing and mobilizing the immense majority of men and women in our country and in obtaining their firm commitment to fight for the triumph of our ideals of freedom, progress, social justice and peace.

This is why we are launching an appeal to all militants and all democrats to provide an example and mobilize forces so that this first regular party congress will be a success.

To a successful first LD/MPT congress!

9805

COUNTRY'S RECOGNITION OF SDAR DISCUSSED

Ouagadougou CARREFOUR AFRICAIN in French No 821, 9 Mar 84 pp 32-33

[Article by Luc-Adolphe Tiao]

[Text] Recognition of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) on 4 August by the CNR [National Revolutionary Council] and the Revolutionary Government was totally in keeping with the legitimate aspirations of the Voltan people, as listed in the position speech of 2 October 1983. Combatting all forms of domination and actively supporting liberation movements constitute one of the pillars of our country's foreign policy.

Recognition of the SDAR thus cannot be considered an isolated act unrelated to the interests of the Voltan people. On the national level, it is the culmination of the implacable fight against the reactionary and conservative forces which have long kept our country's diplomacy under the paternalistic supervision of the watchdogs of international imperialism on the continent. For the sake of a certain harmony of geopolitical positions on African problems, yesterday's Upper Volta never took any public initiatives in the international arena. This same diplomacy, which always tried to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds, thus always operated in obscurity. The official position on the Western Sahara issue thus rectifies the country's foreign policy. But the most important point is that our position is fully in keeping with the OAU charter and the principles of nonalignment concerning the right of peoples to self-determination: proceeding on that basis, the Saharan people are entitled to receive our political and material support to fortify them in their just demands for a free and sovereign nation.

Of course, the decision to recognize the SDAR will not please the Moroccan monarchy and international imperialism, which have seen the SDAR's circle of friends growing each year in spite of their dilatory tactics.

However, we can only affirm once again that the Voltan Revolution is not directed against any people or any country. No one may thus interpret the CNR's decision as an act against the Moroccan people: because the Moroccan people, like the Saharan people, want to live in peace, independence and freedom. The Voltan position is intended only to help make this dream a reality. The immense military support provided by international imperialism, particularly by the Americans to the Moroccan Government, will never triumph over the Saharan people's historic struggle.

Some people fear that the new Voltan position will accentuate the political and ideological divisions within the OAU: in this regard, our country's position is also clear. In Cotonou, comrade President Thomas Sankara stated that Upper Volta is not afraid of a reduced OAU. This is true. Upper Volta will use all its influence to ultimately obtain SDAR membership in the OAU in accordance with its charter.

Even if such membership leads to a breakup of the OAU, our country will accept its full responsibility. We cannot repudiate the basis of our revolution in order to maintain an OAU which no longer represents anything to African peoples.

It is no secret that a number of those lamenting the dissolution of the OAU are the ones who use the pan-African organization to perpetrate imperialist domination on the continent. They are the same chiefs of state shrieking about the "red peril" and urging Western countries to repress the liberation struggles of African peoples, often with the complicity of the OAU (the Shaba Province affair, the Chadian conflict, etc...). They also refuse to listen to any talk of a Saharan state because their organization has decided to protect the interests of King Hassan II in the region.

This is why we affirm that African countries which refuse to recognize the SDAR have chosen their side, that of international reactionary forces. The OAU can only be a forum in which the class struggle is being acted out at the continental level: between those who have allied themselves with international imperialism to exploit their peoples and those who have chosen the path of liberty, independence and defense of their peoples' interests. With the latter, Upper Volta will not hesitate to establish an antiimperialist pan-African organization that alone is capable of accelerating the process of African liberation.

11915

SNEAHV STRIKE STATISTICS GIVEN; MORE DETAILS REPORTED

Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 26 Mar 84 pp 9, 12

[Text] It is now common knowledge that teachers of the SNEAHV [National Union of African Teachers of Upper Volta] have gone on strike for the reasons known.

It is also common knowledge that Upper Volta's Revolutionary Government has decided to dismiss without further ceremony all those who took part in that test of strength.

But what was assumed, although not definitely known, is that statistics, even incomplete ones, were recorded by both sides.

Thus the following are the statistics of official sources as of Friday, 23 March 1984:

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West Ouagadougou:
                   32 strikers out of 184 teachers = 17%
                               **
                                    " 220
East Ouagadougou: 56
                                                    = 25.45\%
Bobo-Dioulasso I: 69 "Bobo-Dioulasso II: 36 "
                                **
                                    " 156
                                                    = 44%
                               " 120
                                                    = 30%
Ouahigouya : 40
                                11
                                    " 118
                                                    = 32%
                         **
                                    " 45
                                             11
                : 22
                                                    = 48%
Kaya
                                    " 104
Koudougou
                                                    = 53\%
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Striking teachers in turn provided us with the following data at the time we went to press:

Koudougou	:	89/148	or	60.13%
Kindi	:	27/31	or	87%
Tenado	:	25/28	or	89.32%
Gourcy	:	48/52	or	95%
Koupela	:	89/109	or	81.65%
Sabou	:	22/37	or	59.45%
Didyr	:	18/31	or	58.06%
Reo	:	45/50	or	90%
Leo	:	70/76	or	92%
Garango	:	47/49	or	95.10%
Dori	:	22/50	or	44%
Bobo	:			80%

Barsalogho: 0/16 or 00%

Ouahigouya : 71/132 Seguenega : 37/43 Titao : 2/23

Sapone : No strikers

Partial figures for Ouagadougou: 110 strikers, or a total of 722 (not including those in Bobo and other sessions, for which figures are unavailable).

A Union Council meeting is scheduled for 30 and 31 March.

It is also known that an interministerial meeting, which included the ministers of national education and culture, higher education and scientific research, finance, civil service and the general secretary of the government and Council of Ministers, was held to study the situation, particularly the criteria for recruiting new teachers.

We should note, finally, that in an AFP [FRENCH PRESS AGENCY] dispatch dated 24 March 1984, Minister Adama Toure, spokesman for the government, intimated that the authorities had received reports that a group of mercenaries was scheduled to land here on Sunday, 25 March 1984, which was yesterday.

He stated that, according to the same information source, \$250,000 or 100 million CFA francs had been distributed to the SNEAHV for destabilizing the revolution. This is why, he said, the strike was thus scheduled for 20 and 21 March 1984, or several days prior to this landing.

11915

BRIEFS

STUDENTS DENOUNCE IMPERIALISM—Students of schools in the city of Ouagadougou held a rally yesterday afternoon in Revolution Square to denounce international imperialism and to express support for the CNR [National Revolutionary Council]. [Excerpt] [Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 22 Mar 84 p 11] 11915

CANADIAN COOPERATION--The Koulweogo School, officially opened on Saturday at the same time as the Maternity Clinic, is an achievement of the local population with Canadian financing. The United States also contributed by providing school equipment and furniture. [Excerpt] [Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 26 Mar 84 p 1] 11915

ADF LOAN--The African Development Fund, ADF, has just approved and concluded several financial agreements with several African countries, including Upper Volta. Our country will thus benefit from a loan of slightly more than 2 billion CFA francs for financing a line of credit to the National Agricultural Credit Fund (CNCA). CNCA officials have stated that this line of credit will enable the fund to increase its possibilities of intervening in rural areas on behalf of thousands of farmers whose incomes are very low. It will also be used to finance short- and intermediate-term credit needs for a 5-year program. The loan is repayable in 20 years, which includes a 5-year grace period. [Excerpt] [Ouagadougou L'OBSERVATEUR in French 21 Mar 84 p 1] 11915

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SOLVE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] MINISTER of Home Affairs, Mr Frederick Chomba has revealed that the government's efforts to Zambianise posts in the system were at times hampered by some Zambians who lodge strong pleas urging the government to renew or extend contracts of expatriates.

Mr Chomba said that he was aware that recently there has been some proliferation of consultancy firms owned by Zambians and that all they did was to pursue appeals for expatriates to have their work permits renewed.

Constributing to the estimates of expenditure for the Ministry of Labour and Social Services, Mr Chomba said that he was aware of Zambian farmers who would rather employ an expatriate farm manager than a Zambian agriculturist from the Natural Resources Development College.

He urged MPs to be realistic when discussing the issue because the government wanted to get rid of expatriate labour because it was costly.

Minister of the National Commission for Development Planning, Dr. Henry Mebeelo warned in his contribution that unless the country transforms its system to a socialist one, unemployment will never come to an end.

He said that capitalism was a bedfellow of unemployment and that unless the management in the parastatals which was based on bourgeois rigidity and autocracy was re-organised, unemployed will always be there.

And winding debate the Minister of Labour and Social Services Mr Frederick Hapunda said last year, the country witnessed 54 illegal strikes involving 8,840 workers.

The government lost 7,393 man days as a result of the strikes.

On unemployment, Mr Hapunda said that 41,466 people applied for jobs at employment exchange centres throughout the country when there were only 22,106 jobs.

He said the unemployment figure rose by 3,244 persons who had been declared redundant by 142 companies.

On the role of the Zambia National Provident Fund (ZNPF), the Minister said membership of the Fund has increased to over one million and that last year, 3,632 members received K236,080 as maternity grant while 810 got K64,800 as funeral benefits.

"Besides these, 2,715 members were paid K2,051,930 as home ownership benefits and grants," he said.

Earlier Kabwata MP Mr Michael Sata urged the Zambia National Provident Fund (ZNPF) to improve the poor accommodation of most workers who contribute to its coffers instead of building prestigious structures.

Mr Sata said it was wrong for the Fund to spend colossal sums of money or putting up skyscrapers when a majority of its members were living in shanty compounds.

Contributing to the same debate Mr Sata urged the Fund's management to change its investment pattern so that members could benefit from their contributions.

He also castigated the management for the swelling suspense account and wondered why the contributors could not be traced.

Mr Sata also said increments awarded to workers should be paid on time to avoid embarrassing incidents similar to the recent one by Lusaka Urban district council refuse collectors who dumped garbage in the streets during the time the capital was hosting the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) donors' meeting.

Kantanshi MP Mr David Nkhata urged the ministry to establish close contacts with labour leaders to avert industrial unrest, adding that it was bad to wait until there was a crisis.

He said the decision by the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) to insist on talking to higher authorities over the 10 per cent wage increment was a case in point.

He also suggested that the ministry should introduce a training levy which would compel staff trained at high cost by government and parastatals to pay back such money when they wanted to quit. This would stem the present exodus of trained manpower leaving the State or big companies to join the private sector.

And Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resources, Mr Cosmas Masongo said Zambians should be resourceful as this was the only way to solve the unemployment problem.

He said it was high time people stopped looking up to the government to provide them with everything without initiating anything on their own to improve their quality of life. Mr Masongo said town dwellwers concentrated on discussing the high unemployment rate along the line of rail and forgot that their rural counterparts were worse off, but still engaged in some self-help ventures.

He urged leaders to be frank with the people and not give the impression that the government could provide everything.

Liuwa MP Mr Namushi Namuchana blamed the labour movement of being weak because it accepted the 10 per cent wage increment which he described as insignificant.

He said labour leaders acted like cowards and urged them to be brave in future so that they could effectively represent workers.

Mr Wilfred Wonani (Kabwe) said there were complaints by miners who were made to work on six of the 13 official holidays. He suggested that they should be adequately compensated if management insisted they must work on these days.

Ndola MP Mrs Esther Chande suggested that the ministry should pass legislation providing for a certain percentage of jobs to be reserved for disabled people.

Member for Bweengwa Mr Rex Natala spoke out against political interference in labour matters and said labour disputes should not be handled by "half-baked" people who were not conversant with labour issues.

Chikankata MP Mr Lazarous Cheelo said indiscipline was rife among Zaambian workers and this was exemplified in the numerous cases of drunkenness at work, reporting late for duties and other negative trends.

On the Industrial Relations Act of 1971, the MP said it was either misunderstood by most workers or its contents were not relevant to the present situation.

The presence of works councils, works committees, political committees and trade union representatives at places of work had caused confusion. Some members of these committees now regarded management as opposition, thereby affecting production.

And Finance Minister Luke Mwananshiku said lack of enough funds was holding up the provision of patrol boats at Mpulungu and other areas.

Answering Mr John Chizu (Mpulungu) who asked when the customs post at Mpulungu would be equipped with a patrol boat, the minister said the K48,000 in this year estimates for the customs and excise department was not enough to buy the seven boats it requires. Only three boats can be bought from this year's estimates.

And Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Mr Cosmas Chibanda said his Ministry would consider providing television services to Mbala and Mpulungu when the micro-wave links to the two areas were established. He was replying to another question by Mr Chizu.

STRIKE, UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES ESTIMATED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] THERE were 54 illegal strikes involving 8,840 workers last year, Minister of Labour and Social Services Mr Frederick Hapunda told Parliament yesterday.

Winding up debate on the estimates of expenditure for his ministry, Mr Hapunda said Zambia lost 7,393 man days because of the walkouts.

"These figures indicate vividly that some of the strikes were resolved promptly. This also means that the labour movement intervened quickly and requested their members to return to work."

The nation continued to experience acute unemployment because of the declining economy which made it difficult to create jobs.

During the year 41,446 people applied for employment at employment exchanges and these had to compete for 22,106 vacancies notified to the exchanges.

Unemployment rose by 3,244 when some people were declared redundant by 142 companies.

"The unemployment situation must be tackled vigorously." One of the efficient ways was to expand the informal sector.

And Broken Hill Mine at the Kabwe division of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines will close down in four years, Kabwe Member of Parliament Mr Wilfrid Wonani told the House.

He had been informed of the mine's impending closure and wondered what would happen to the workers there.

Zinc and lead are mined at Kabwe, one of the oldest mines, and if it closed down, it would become the second major mine to do so after Ndola's Bwana Mkubwa mine which is closing at the end of next month.

On industrial relations, Mr Hapunda said the Industrial Relations Court handled 29 different collective agreements.

Minister of Home Affairs Mr Frederick Chomba said Zambia had achieved a high degree of success in Zambianisation although there was need to continue the programme.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will consider the provision of television services to Mbala and Mpulungu as soon as microwave links to the two areas were established.

Replying to a question raised by Mr John Chizu (Mpulungu) Minister of Information and Broadcasting Mr Cosmas Chibanda said his ministry was keen on providing television services to the two areas, but it could only do so after they had been served with microwave links.

TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDECO-SUKAB OF SWEDEN

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] INDECO will shortly start exporting its products to Sweden and other Scandinavian countries following the signing of a Trade Development Agreement between Indeco and Sukab of Sweden.

The agreement was signed in Lusaka by Indeco managing director, Mr Dixie Zulu and Sukab regional manager, Mr Peter Beckman.

The objectives of the agreement are to promote and increase Zambian exports, help product development of Zambian goods and facilitate imports from Sweden to Zambia.

Under the agreement, Indeco will export products worth about K10 million annually. These exports will mainly comprise wood and its products, textiles, talc, manganese, cement, sugar, molasses, copper products, coffee and other Zambian products.

Mr Zulu said at the signing ceremony that Indeco which had been import-oriented was now shifting policy to encourage exports through the recent formation of an export promotion office at head office.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the manager of the newly-created Indeco Export Promotion Department, Mr Winter Mwala, Indeco commercial advisor, Mr Dewan Reza and controller of public relations Mr Augustine Seyuba.

"We are very serious about this programme and I wish to see Zambian goods moving to Scandinavia in the next three months," Mr Zulu said.

Indeco will import from Sweden spare parts, raw materials, plant and equipment.

The agreement will initially last two years but will be extended for one year if either party is satisfied with it.

Under the agreement's mode of co-operation, any Zambian company belonging to the Zimco group will qualify as importer and any Swedish company as exporter. An interbank arrangement will be signed between a Swedish and Zambian bank to regulate the accounting of the transactions.

Sukab is a non-profit making organisation owned by the government, private and co-operative enterprises in Sweden with the aim of developing two-way trade.

Sukab have facilities of financing in other countries. Zambian goods, therefore, have a potential market in Third World countries through the agreement.

ANGOLAN COMPANY STILL OWES NAMBOARD FOR 1977 MAIZE IMPORT

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] NAMBOARD is still owed nearly K800,000 by an Angolan company which imported 40,000 tonnes of maize in 1977 when Zambia had a bumper crop harvest.

And Namboard lost over K64,000 through under-bankings, thefts and frauds by unscrupulous employees from 1977 to 1980.

This is contained in the Action-Taken Report on the Parliamentary committee findings on parastatal bodies, just tabled in Parliament by Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia.

On the maize export to Angola, the report says that the company which originally imported the maze has since disbanded and the new firm that inherited the debt has not yet paid Namboard.

In 1977, Namboard undertook to export 40,000 tonnes of maize to Angola because Zambia had a bumper harvest and there was no storage capacity to store the crop.

The last consignment of 5,261 tonnes was shipped in February, 1979, but the clearing and forwarding company discovered that the maize was weeviled and communicated the information to Namboard.

As a follow-up Namboard dispatched two officers to ascertain whether the maize was in fact weeviled, which they did and accordingly fumigated the maize.

But the ship master who saw dead weevils on the bags endorsed on the bill of lading that the maize was unfit for human consumption.

"Despite the ship master's endorsement of 'not fit for human consumption' on the bill of lading, the Angelan government confirms that in fact the maize was consumed by humans."

The report states that the Angolan bank declined to pay because of the ship master's comments on the bill of lading.

"Since then Namboard has made strenous efforts to secure payment of this debt of K784,842.35. In August, 1982, a Namboard delegation visited Angola in yet another effort to secure payment.

"When the delegation reached Angola they found that the company which had originally imported the maize had disbanded. However, further inquiries revealed that a new company had been formed to take over responsibilities of that company that had wound up. This new company confirmed that they owed the Board the sum in question and undertook to pay by the end of December, 1982.

"Regrettably, up to now no money has been forthcoming from the Angolans. This matter has been duly reported and communicated to the governments of Angola and Zambia and our Board has suggested that the government of Zambia take over the debt and we have informed the government accordingly to take over the debt."

However, there has been no response from the government.

On cash losses, the report says that a sum of K64,761 was lost from 1977 to 1980 through under-bankings, thefts and frauds.

"Although the Board is doing its best to minimise cash losses, there are always unscrupulous employees who want to defraud the Board," says the report.

During routine audit by the Board's internal auditors, it was discovered that irregular payments were made from the head office petty cash.

These irregular payments included cash drawings for travel advances, funeral, salary and purchases, instead of cheques.

Consequently, administrative action was taken by banning all travel advances and transferring all amounts owed by the various officers to their salary accounts to ensure recovery from the payroll and the amounts have since been recovered.

On apparent wasteful expenditure, the report refers to a sum of K51,441 spent on storage charges for tarpaulins at the Lusaka International Airport.

In anticipation of a bumper maize harvest and inadequate tarpaulins to cope, the government directed Namboard, Eastern Co-operative Union and the Southern Province Co-operative and Marketing Union to procure and airfreight tarpaulins for the coming season, and orders were placed with suppliers in India.

But when the tarpaulins arrived at the Lusaka International Airport, they could not be promptly cleared as some lacked clearing documents or there were inadequate markings for identification, resulting in long periods of storage at the airport.

DRIVE TO EXPORT SUGAR TO EARN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 17 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] ZAMBIA will soon be exporting sugar to a neighbouring state to earn foreign exchange, President Kaunda said yesterday.

The President said this when chairman of Tate and Lyle, Mr Robert Haslam and the Group Managing Director, Mr Neil Shaw called on him at State House.

Dr Kaunda said Zambia was experiencing difficulties in earning foreign exchange, but it was gratifying to have learnt from Managing Director of Zambia Sugar Company, Mr David Tate, who was also at State House, that his company was launching an export drive for sugar.

Zambia was battling to build her economy with finances from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other financial institutions, and an export of sugar will go a long way to ease the problem of foreign exchange.

Dr Kaunda commended Tate and Lyle for its active role in developing the sugar industry at Nakambla during the past twenty years.

"Although the company had faced production problems in the last two years, it is commendable that it has stepped up production," the President said.

He said the relations between the Party and the company were warm and it was the hope of the government to see the ties strengthened.

In reply, Mr Haslam said it was the wish of his company to see an expanded programme of co-operation in the sugar industry. He, later presented sugar bowls to Dr Kaunda.

Agriculture and Water Development Minister, General Kingsley Chinkuli and Minister of National Guidance, Mr Arnold Simuchimba accompanied the Tate and Lyle officials to State House.

--President Kaunda yesterday laid a wreath at the Freedom Statue to mark the Youth Week and commemorate the fallen youths of the country.

The ceremony, which was attended by Party Secretary-General Mr Humphrey Mulemba, Prime Minister Mr Nalumino Mundia, Secretary of State for Defence and Security, Mr Grey Zulu and other top Party officials was characterised by solemn music from Party youths.

The UNIP pioneers, dressed in black, white and red scarves were also part of the parade at the ceremony.

UNION RELUCTANT TO PURCHASE LOCAL RICE: NO MARKET

Lusaka ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL in English 14 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] THE Western Province Cooperative Union (WPCU) is reluctant to buy paddy rice from the farmers this year because the exercise is not economical to the union.

General manager of the union, Mr Anang'anga Imwiko said in Mongu his company was still having 15,500 bags of paddy rice from the previous two seasons which had no market.

Mr Imwiko said unless the Party and its government came to the rescue of the union to find a market for the rice, the union would be reluctant to purchase more bags of rice this season.

He said the crop forecast for this year was about 20,000 bags.

Mr Imwiko suggested that if local rice was to be saved from rotting or going to waste, the National Milling Company should not be allowed to import rice before they knew what was available locally.

Mr Imwiko stressed that the union would be very grateful if somebody came forward to take over the responsibility of buying rice from local farmers.

He said the union was using public funds, adding, although buying rice was a national responsibility, members would like to see the cooperative making reasonable profit to meet running costs and not to operate at a loss.

Mr Imwiko observed that the buying season of rice opens in May but the cooperative was not in a position to liquidate an overdraft of the previous two seasons.

The general manager said although arrangements had been made for Zamhort to purchase the outstanding rice from Western Province, it had only managed to get 2,500 bags from a total of 18,500 leaving a balance of 15,500 bags.

He said the cooperative was selling one bag of rice at K48.00 while running costs for the same bag fetched about K50.00 when bought at K40.00 each from the farmers.

He said collection costs for each bag was K18.67 because only smaller fourwheel vehicles were used to reach the villagers because of poor roads in the province.

Mr Imwiko said according to arrangements with Zamhort the company was supposed to be purchasing about 500 bags per week but this was not possible since the company has also its operational problems.

Mr Imwiko observed that Zamhort processing machines had broken down and bags of rice were piling up in Lusaka.

He feared that the bags of rice in Western Province would go bad if it overstayed for another two years without being sold.

Meanwhile, the European Community took a major step towards reforming its farm subsidies system yesterday by deciding to cut milk production in a move which diplomats said could give new impetus to talks on averting bloc bankruptcy.

Farm ministers of the 10-nation group agreed, after an 18-hour session which ended early yesterday, to slash block milk production this year in an attempt to save the subsidy programme from financial ruin.

The announcement of an accord on one of the most sensitive areas of farm reform followed what diplomats said was an abortive session of bloc foreign ministers.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Den Broeck told reporters the talks made no real progress on the issue of adjusting British payments to the Brussels budget.

STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION NETS PROFIT

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 15 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] THE Zambia State Insurance Corporation (ZSIC) made a profit of K23.8 million before tax for the year ended December 31, 1983, chairman Ignatius Muchangwe has said.

Yesterday he pledged the corporation's determination to continue to find new ways of bringing insurance and assurance to people in the rural areas so they would benefit from the scheme.

In his annual report and accounts for the year which he presented to the ZSIC annual meeting yesterday at the corporation headquarters at Premium House in Lusaka, Mr Muchangwe says:

"With the general development in our society, new areas emerge in both life and non-life divisions for the introduction of new types of cover. Research is continually being carried out to monitor the requirements of industry, commerce and the private sector."

The move will ensure that requirements will be met at the time they are needed and that 1984 will see new products added to ZSIC's portfolio development and profitability.

The K23.8m profit achieved in the non-life division enabled the corporation to provide for a division of K3 million.

The meeting was attended by several board members including corporation managing director, Mr Savior Konie.

He said the year under review had again been wrought with economic difficulties which affected all sectors of the Zambian economy.

"I must draw the attention of the authorities to the delayed payments of reinsurance premiums.

"Whie the corporation keeps a continuing close watch on its risk retention and where possible updates to save on the premiums due, there is still a necessity for maintaining adequate reinsurance protection."

He paid tribute to the international market for its support given to ZSIC and assured it that every effort was being made in conjunction with the Bank of Zambia to make payments in the first half of this year which should materially reduce its arreas.

The non-life division returned K8.32 million against K71.5 million in 1982, an increase of 16.4 per cent. The life division made K36.1 million against K30.3 million in 1982, an increase of 19.1 per cent.

Investment income for both divisions rose to K19.8 million compared with K18.7 million in 1982. The operation of the non-life division resulted in a profit before tax of K23.8 million against K20.3 million the previous year.

--Zambia Railways incurred a net loss of Kll million in the 1981/82 financial year, says a company annual report tabled in Parliament.

The loss represents an increase of K5 million on the net deficit of K6 million in the previous financial year.

The deficit includes the diminution in value of the Zambia Railways board's interest in Zambia Concrete--a subsidiary of Zambia Railways which recorded a K600,000 deficit because of large pre-production expenses.

Revenue earned by the board reached a new record of K72.3m which was an improvement of 7.4 per cent over the previous year.

The improvement in revenue was mainly because of the higher volume of traffic. This was in spite of the adverse effects of the re-routing of the major import traffic from the southern route to Dar es Salaam.

Expenditure including interest on long-term loans advanced to the new record figure of K82.7m. This constitutes an increase of K9.9m or 13 per cent over the previous financial year.

The rise was mainly through the increase on long-term loans of K4m and a 44 per cent increase in the price of diesel fuel for locomotives.

Because of a shortage of spares, motive power was insufficient and not dependable. This in turn created high overtime allowances expenditure.

Track defects and signal failures hampered punctual operation of trains.

STATE FARMS PRODUCTION PROGRESSING WELL

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 15 Mar 84 p 2

[Text]

LUSAKA Province expects to earn at least K80,000 from the 20,000 hectarage of crop at Mwembeshi State farm on the Mumbwa road in Lusaka west.

Central Committee Member for the province Mr Fines Bulawayo who started a tour of the State and private farms yesterday, said he was impressed with progress at the farm.

He said that State farms belonged to the people and must be manned by Zambians.

Mr Bulawayo was impressed with the work at Prisons farms and Diamond Dale farm,

The lima programme was Zambia's only salvation and people should grow enough food to feed the people and for sale outside the country.

And Eastern Province Member of the Central Committee Mrs Betty Chilunga has commended the department of agriculture for opening up a State farm on time in the area.

Mrs Chilunga said the opening of the Mitirizi farm near Nyimba was a turning point in the country's efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

She was addressing farmers and villagers who attended a field day at the State farm to mark its beginning of fullscale crop production.

Mrs Chilunga appealed to

the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development to raise funds for the next planting season on time.

She commended the prisons department for contributing towards food production in the country.

Mrs Chilunga was speaking after touring the prisons farms at Nyimba where 6,000 bags of maize are expected to be produced this season.

Farmers in Central Province have been told to use oxen on their fields because there were not enough tractors to go round.

Provincial Member of the Central Committee Mr Joshua Mumpanshya said yesterday the demand for tractors was high. The number provided by the ministry was not enough to meet the demand.

Mr Mumpanshya, who was officiating at the seventh provincial ploughing competition held at Munyama farms, said lack of adequate tractors would continue for sometime.

Mr Mumpanshya said during this period when Zambia was experiencing long periods of droughts, deep ploughing was necessary.

FAMINE-HIT KALOMO RECEIVES MEALIE MEAL

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 13 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] THE Hindu Association of Zambia (HAZ) and other Muslim organisations have raised 2,000 bags of mealie meal to avert loss of lives in Kalomo which has been hit by famine.

The organisations have intensified their campaign to generate support and raise funds to buy more bags of mealie meal for the people in the affected areas of the Southern Province.

Liaison committee spokesman for the organisations Mr Haroon Ghumra said in Lusaka yesterday that the plight of the Kalomo villages who were eating roots to survive had evoked sympathy among the Asian Community.

A committee member Mr. Suresh Desai had been sent to Kalomo to seek information from leaders in the district and province on how effective distribution of the commodity could be carried out.

Members of the organisations would be travelling to Kalomo to physically take part in the distribution of the relief supplies.

"The Asian community is an integral part of the Zambian society. It believes it has a duty to assist in whatever form and wherever possible to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters," Mr Ghumra said.

His committee would appreciate any form of help from the Party and its Government in ensuring that there was fair and proper distribution of the food.

Members felt that the relief supplies should not end up in wrong hands.

Mr Ghumra paid tribute to the Times of Zambia for highlighting the issue, noting that people living in towns and cities were not always informed of situations in the countryside.

"We have been deeply touched by the plight of the villagers. We hope to make the first supply before the end of this week."

Mr Ghumra appealed to Choma Milling Company to give his committee top priority so the programme could be implemented smoothly.

And provincial permanent secretary Mr Pensulo Phiri will compile a comprehensive report on famine before approaching Cabinet Office for contingency funds.

He said in Livingstone that he was awaiting detailed reports on the situation from all the district councils in the province.

More famine reports were still filtering through. Gwembe, Namwala and Choma had sent in theirs.

A report from the Choma district executive secretary Mr Ricahrd Simuchoba said famine had affected the areas of chiefs Mapanza and Mooyo.

Monze and Mazabuka councils have not yet submitted their assessments but were expected to do so soon, Mr Phiri said.

There were indications that the World Food Programme would come in with food relief supplies.

Last week acting Kalomo governor Mr Collins Namanjolo made a passionate appeal to service and charitable organisations and the public for relief food supplies.

Zana reports that more than 53,900 villagers were starving in Monze district and only emergency food supplies would save the situation.

Monze acting governor Mr Nesford Moonde said in an interview that the situation was very critical and required urgent Government measures to avert deaths most especially among children.

"The situation in chiefs Chona, Ufwenuka, Mwanza, Choongo, Siamusonde and Monze is completely out of hand with people living on wild fruits and roots which could be dangerous if not properly prepared."

He said the worst hit areas in the six chiefs' areas were Moomba, Nadongo, Kayola and Namateba.

BRIEFS

ZNS TAKES OVER TIKA--THE Ndola Zambia National Service (ZNS) has taken over the controversial Tika housing complex at Mumbezhi 114 km west of Solwezi for a farm and ordered three Government departments to quit the area. The departments affected are public works, health and tsetse control and 90 Grades One to Seven pupils. The fate of the six teachers at Munkozhi Primary School and police officers who occupy some Tika houses is yet to be decided. It is understood that about 500 ZNS families would soon move in. Solwezi acting district education officer, Mr Yowana Sevente rushed to Munkozhi Primary School at Mwembezhi yesterday following an urgent police radio message from the headmaster, Mr John Kasji. A Zana reporter who accompanied him was not allowed in the meeting, but a ZNS spokesman said later they were there to survey the possibility of starting a farm. Mr Sevente confirmed that the six teachers who occupied houses would continue to stay there until the situation had been clarified. Prime Minister Mundia and Secretary of State for Defence and Security Zulu on February 12 visited the Tika housing complex. There have been other suggestions to turn the complex into a secondary school, a technical institute or a school of agriculture for the University of Zambia. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMIBA in English 15 Mar 84 p 1]

MOST WHITE FARMERS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO DEPART

Paris LE MONDE in French 19-20 Feb 84 p 6

[Article by Jacques de Barrin]

[Text] Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, was for a long time the paradise of the white colonial. After independence, this privileged status was no longer conceivable, but Mr Mugabe wished to appease. However, farmers keep their rifles beside them as they work.

A security enclosure as high as a man's head surrounds this farm near Nyamandhlovu. A brick wall with loopholes for weapons protects the living room. A pack of rather unpleasant dogs, from the mastiff to the German shepherd, is on guard, ready to give the alarm.

Inside the house, within reach, resting on a sofa, weapons of all calibers lean against a closet: repeater hunting rifle, Belgian assault rifle, automatic. In one corner, the "agric-alert" which keeps the owner in continuous contact with his neighbors and brings in their help in an emergency.

No, it hasn't changed: it's still war, or something very much like it. Just like before independence. The white farmers of Matabeleland know it only too well: 31 of them have been murdered since 1980, 17 of these, last year. They have to keep their weapons within easy reach.

Who are these "bandits," as they are called in high circles, who begrudge them their goods and their persons. Actually no one's too sure, because in this area nothing is more like a bandit than another bandit. However, from a few faint indications, most of them are tempted to read into their actions the "signature" of uncontrolled elements of the fifth brigade, entrusted by the Harare government with the mission of "reestablishing order" in Matabeleland.

The murder of four members of the Loxton family near Kezi last Christmas Eve made the farmers aware that they too could become the targets of the ZIPRA dissidents. ZIPRA is the old army of Joshua Nkomo, the number one political adversary of the present prime minister, Robert Mugabe. They know they are suspected of keeping up a good relationship with the forces of law and order and of giving them information.

But who knows whether the white farmers are complaining of the passivity of the army and police force and for their slowness, even unwillingness, to make use of the information they receive on the comings and goings of dissident groups. "When a murder happens, you have to wait several hours before the forces of law and order come to the scene of the crime to make a report," says one of them.

"Whatever it may say, the government isn't helping us to protect our safety effectively," another maintains. Can one post a soldier behind each farmer day and night? Carrying arms is authorized, certainly, but munitions allocations are measured out with a miserly hand. The normal "ratio" is 120 bullets per person, and the user must keep up the inventory and account for how the missing bullets were used.

"We have to interrupt our community shooting practice for months due to lack of munitions," complained one white. And added: "They don't allow us the right to self-defense because we're forbidden to fire on someone who's penetrated the security perimeter without having to answer for it in court."

In order not to attract reprisals, aren't certain white farmers sometimes tempted to "ignore" the comings and goings of dissident groups who, loaded with weapons and luggage, cross over their property and sometimes steal a few head of cattle or a few sacks of flour or corn? Of course, there is no answer to this question.

Children's Education

Victims of acts of banditry with a more or less political coloration, the white farmers of Matabeleland are also the victims of natural calamities: for the third year in succession there has been a persistent drought which would have completed their discouragement if they still had the heart for their work. Under these conditions, how is one to manage farms of over 2,000 acres and feed herds of over a thousand cattle?

Transporting the cattle to the still grassy lands of Manicaland? That would cost about 45 dollars per head. The expense is beyond the farmers' means. Cut down the size of the herd? That is the threatening situation that is happening.

The white farmers of Matebeleland stopped investing ages ago. "Our farms don't pay any more," they say, "because, with all these additional charges, we have the cost of local labor (about 49 dollars a month) and fuel (90 cents a liter). The bankers won't loan us any more money because our businesses aren't healthy."

To limit the risk, some of them have already moved the children and relatives whose presence on the land was no longer essential to Bulawayo, the capital of Matabeleland. Others, the "Sunday farmers" in the regions most exposed to banditry, abandoned the management of their lands to their African employees and come out Sundays to make an owner's inspection.

These are paltry solutions, but many are resigned to them, of necessity. The only other solution would be to sell their land to the government at a ridiculous price. Some, attached to the country and to a certain lifestyle, would willingly invest the revenues from their farms in real estate since, they say, "you can still expect a steady income."

Many, however, have definitely made a break with the past or are getting ready to do so. Their children's education is not the least of the arguments favoring departure. In this regard, the recent government decision to "democratize" private schools has worried them for over a year. "We want to give our sons and daughters a solid education so that their future will not be compromised the way ours seems to be," explained one white farmer.

Getting Out of the Wasps' Nest

And here's what the result has been: 4 years ago, there were 740 farms in Matabeleland farmed by whites; in January 1983, 628; and today, only 492. In the Kezi region, 19 families have left their land; 6 remain, most of them "Sunday farmers." In the Tjolotjo sector, the number of "white" farms has fallen from 50 to 22 between 1980 and 1984. This turn of events appears to be inexorable.

The white farmers of Matabeleland have lost their morale, and one can see why. "Those who are still there are the most courageous and certainly the most competent," says one economist. Nonetheless, they have only one idea in their heads: get out of the wasps' nest into which they have involuntarily fallen.

Today, most of them are preparing for departure. They track down information: "What's it like in Kenya?" They will leave because that's what some people are pushing them to do, for obscure reasons and by singular means. Heavy-hearted, they are leaving behind them the farms they built with their own hands and which they "fortified" to defend. "It's neither practical nor pleasant to work with a pistol in your belt and a rifle across your shoulders," sighed one of them, to justify himself.

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